

Special Issue

THE

NORFOLK ISLAND NEWS

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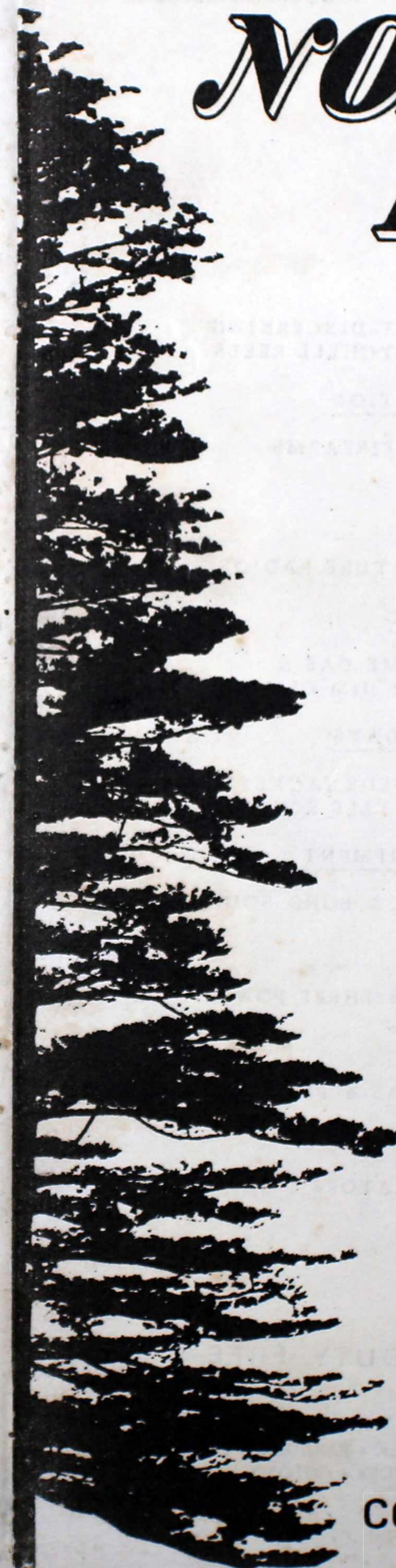
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SPECIAL ISSUE

THROUGH ITS MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS the Australian Government indicated last month that it no longer considers Norfolk Island a separate and distinct place, and is no longer willing to acknowledge the existence of the Pitcairn people as a distinct race who are entitled to special rights in Norfolk as their racial homeland. A Cabinet decision to enforce these new policies is imminent.

This issue of The News is entirely devoted to four of the main elements in the conflict created by Australia's plans.

The first is a submission made to the Government by the Society of Descendants of the Pitcairn Settlers. The Society is the principal organisation speaking for the Pitcairners, whose families make up more than half of the Island's permanent population. The Society's submission is the most intelligent and forceful statement ever made by the Pitcairners in their generations-long effort to regain self-government in their own land.

This issue also includes the complete text of a report that has been sent to the Minister for Home Affairs and the Minister for Foreign Affairs by the United Nations Association of Australia. It calls for an immediate change in Australia's policies toward Norfolk, which it says are in flagrant violation of commitments Australia has undertaken to the United Nations.

Finally there is a report on the visit of the Minister for Home Affairs to Norfolk last month. It reveals the Australian Government's current position, as it can be inferred from the Minister's comments, and the position of the Norfolk Island Council, which is the only elected body representing all the people of Norfolk.

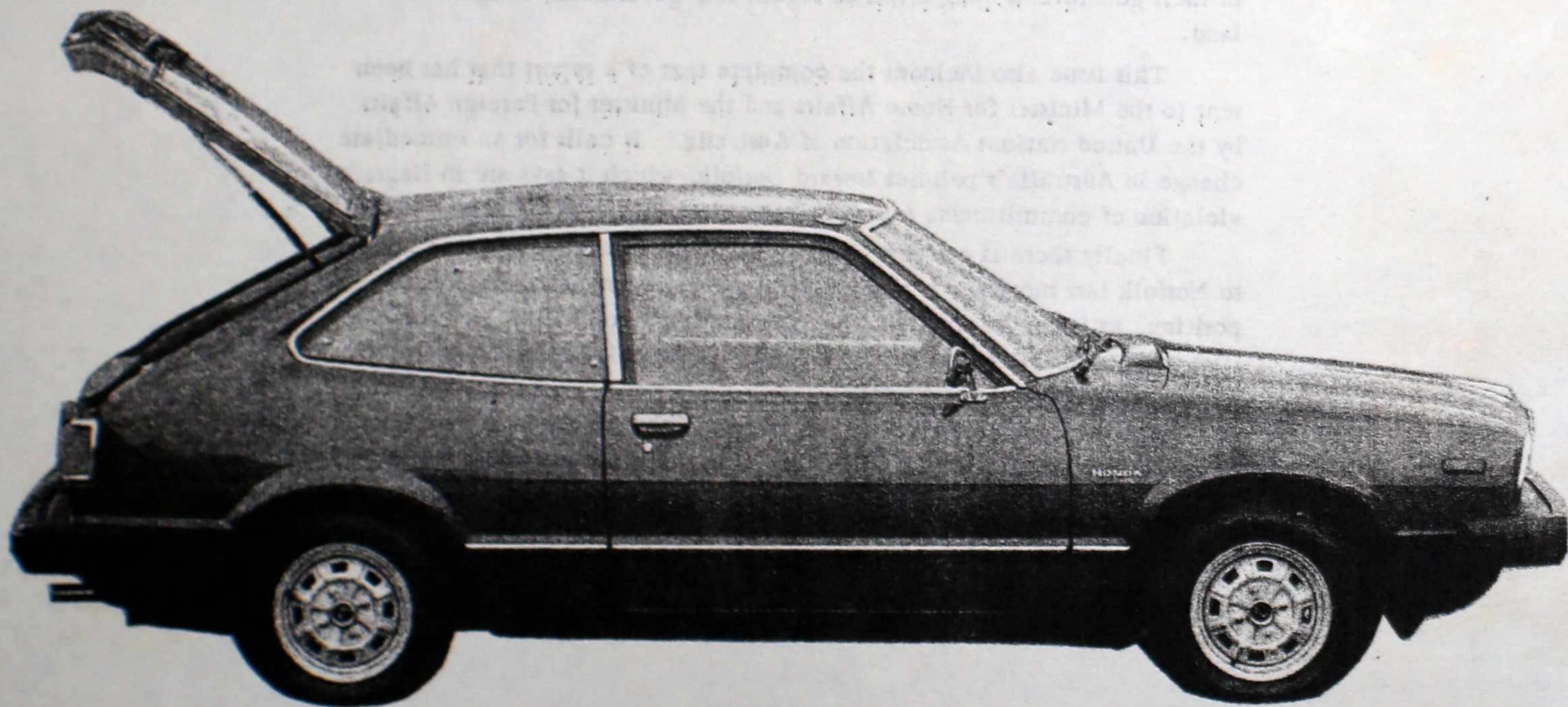
Australia intends to act within three months and could act within a matter of weeks. It is hoped that this issue will present a clear picture of the situation to those who care deeply about Norfolk, or about the principles that are involved, so that they may act as quickly as has now become necessary.

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The Pitcairn Race, The Nimmo Report, and The Future of Norfolk Island

FULL TEXT OF A SUBMISSION MADE BY THE SOCIETY OF DESCENDANTS OF THE PITCAIRN SETTLERS ON NORFOLK ISLAND TO HON. R.J. ELLICOTT, Q.C., M.P., MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS, ON 18TH MARCH, 1978 *

On 3rd March, 1978, it was announced that the recently-appointed Minister for Home Affairs, Hon. R.J. Ellicott, would visit the Island from 18th to 21st March for the purpose of holding discussions on the Nimmo Report.

This submission has been prepared by the Society of Descendants of the Pitcairn Settlers, and was reviewed in detail and unanimously endorsed at a general meeting of members of the Society on 13th

March, 1978. Its purpose is to provide the Minister with information which the Society believes is essential to an understanding of the Pitcairn position and the implications of the recommendations of Sir John Nimmo's Report.

This submission is made on behalf of the Society, but the members of the Society sincerely believe it is in keeping with the views of the great majority of Pitcairn descendants living on Norfolk Island.

The submission is divided into the following sections:

- I. Specific findings of the Commissioner concerning the Pitcairners, and the Society's comments on these findings.
- II. The Future of the Pitcairners and Their Survival as a Distinct Race.
- III. Information and statistics concerning the position of the Pitcairners in the life of Norfolk Island today.

SECTION I. SPECIFIC FINDINGS OF THE COMMISSIONER CONCERNING THE PITCAIRNERS, AND THE SOCIETY'S COMMENTS ON THESE FINDINGS.

The Norfolk Island Council has pointed out some serious factual errors in the Nimmo Report. We will not repeat what the Council has said, although we endorse its criticism of the Report.

We are concerned in this submission with errors in many of the supposed "findings" of the Commissioner as to the history and present condition of the Pitcairn people.

We offer the following comments on statements made by Sir John Nimmo in his "Report of the Royal Commission into matters relating to Norfolk Island".

(Where words are directly quoted, the quotes are from Sir John Nimmo's published Report. Page numbers shown are also from his Report.)

* Sub-headings used in Section I have been added, and did not appear in the original submission.

1. THE CRIMES OF THE "BOUNTY" MUTINEERS

Sir John Nimmo comments:

The early history of Pitcairn Island included a series of murders "following disagreements over rights to the favours of the females". The first murder was "arranged" by Fletcher Christian. After all the Tahitian men had been murdered, the English sailors and Tahitian women "duly held a celebration" (P.27). "The men, however, on each occasion, exhibited an interesting indication of their needs and priorities by not killing the women" (P.28).

For eleven years there was "mutiny, piracy, attempted murder, murder, arson, suicide, theft, assault, battery, abduction and probably carnal knowledge and rape..." (P.28).

The Society answers:

While it is true, the Pitcairn race was begun by fathers who were in-

involved in violence, we do not believe that a listing of their crimes, possible crimes and imagined unsavoury behaviour, is necessary to an understanding of their descendants.

If their crimes are to be emphasized, other facts might also be mentioned. Captain Bligh, against whom they mutinied, was also mutinied against by senior officers when Bligh was Governor of New South Wales. The "Bounty" crew were not dregs of the London docks, but were hand-picked from volunteers for the "Bounty's" voyage. Fletcher Christian himself came from an old and respected family with a well documented ancestry tracing back to 534 A.D.

Other unsavoury matters cited by the Commissioner - the "favours of the females" being the main source of the trouble, the "arrangement" of a murder, and the "celebration" of later murders - are colouring, or rather discolouring, and are not historically verifiable facts.

2. THE MOVE TO TAHITI

Sir John Nimmo comments:

In 1831 the Pitcairners were transferred to Tahiti to give them better natural resources. This transfer was unsuccessful, and "after repeated requests to be returned to Pitcairn, the survivors were shipped home".

The Society answers:

In 1831 the Pitcairners were moved from Pitcairn to Tahiti by British order entirely without their prior consultation. The move was a failure. In fact, 16 Pitcairners died when an epidemic of fever took its toll. The Pitcairners were not "shipped home" to Pitcairn.

They arranged their own passage, with the help of missionaries, public donations in Tahiti and by selling many of the copper bolts of the "Bounty" which had been brought to Tahiti from Pitcairn by the Islanders.

The Islanders returned to Pitcairn aboard the American whaler "Charles Doggett" in September 1833.

3. THE PROMISES MADE TO THE PITCAIRNERS

Sir John Nimmo comments:

In 1856 the Pitcairners were transferred to Norfolk Island. They and their descendants believed that all of Norfolk Island was promised to them and that they were assured that they could continue governing themselves.

In the 1975 Royal Commission, however, "no evidence was produced to support this claim" (P. 41). Governor Sir William Denison, of New South Wales, was in fact "supreme legislator" for Norfolk Island (P. 44).

The Society answers:

The clear terms and conditions proposed by the British Government on which the Pitcairners agreed to re-settle on Norfolk Island in 1856 can be found in official British documents. These have been brought to notice since the publication of the Royal Commission Report, although all were readily available to the Commissioner.

The Pitcairners were to be granted all land on Norfolk Island, with some 700 acres reserved for their community use.

They were to continue governing

themselves without interference from any other colony.

It is worth noting that while the Commissioner states that "no evidence was produced" concerning the Pitcairners' right to own all of Norfolk, individually or in common, he stated elsewhere in his report that "one cannot escape the background implications of the original promises - Norfolk Island basically was to be a new homeland for the Pitcairners" (P. 39). He makes no other reference to those "original promises", but obviously realised that promises were indeed made.

Governor Sir William Denison was not "supreme legislator" for Norfolk Island. A Colonial Office memorandum of 27th February, 1858 stated that the Pitcairners on Norfolk Island had "the whole executive and legislative, and a considerable part of the judicial authority on the island", and noted that laws made by the Pitcairners on Norfolk Island could only be disallowed by Order in Council.

4. THE ADMISSION OF NEW SETTLERS

Sir John Nimmo comments:

Pitcairners sold some Norfolk Island land to new settlers. This was a voluntary departure from the government policy that the island was to be reserved only for the Pitcairners. It greatly displeased Governor Denison (P. 37).

The Society comments:

The sale of some Norfolk Island land to new settlers was not a departure from any government policy toward Norfolk Island. It was consistent with the fact that occasional new settlers have always been admitted into the Pitcairn (and later Norfolk) community. It was entirely consistent with the government's approval of Governor Denison's own recommendation that "land should be transferred to the newcomers (i. e. the Pitcairn settlers on Norfolk) in such a manner as to give them a right to deal with it as their own".

5. THE "DEFLECTIONS" BACK TO PITCAIRN

Sir John Nimmo comments:

Within the first seven years of

their arrival at Norfolk, there were two "deflections" of families who moved back to Pitcairn Island because of "homesickness" (P. 34).

The Society comments:

The return to Pitcairn Island by two groups of families, in 1858 and 1863, is not fairly called a "deflection" and was not the result simply of "homesickness". The heads of the returning families, seeing that the promises made to the Pitcairners had not been kept, preferred to go back to the harder, but freer, life on Pitcairn.

6. NORFOLK ISLAND AS THE PITCAIRNERS' HOMELAND

Sir John comments:

The policy that Norfolk Island was to be reserved for the Pitcairners was "split apart and into fragments" in 1866, when the Melanesian Mission was allowed to buy about 1,000 acres on the island (P. 38).

The Society comments:

In saying that the policy of reserving Norfolk Island for Pitcairners was "split apart and into fragments" in 1866, the Commissioner implies that the island long ago ceased being, as a matter of government policy, the homeland of our people. This is incorrect. It is our homeland now, and Pitcairn descendants living in other countries are permitted, by government policy, to return to Norfolk Island without restrictions that apply to would-be immigrants who are not Pitcairners.

It is significant that in 1865 the Secretary of State for the Colonies objected to the indiscriminate granting of Norfolk Island to outsiders, saying that the islanders "might consider it at variance with the pledges held out to them when they left Pitcairn Island".

7. "PRIORITIES IN TURPITUDE"

Sir John Nimmo comments:

Two laws requested by the Pitcairners, creating a £10 fine for fornication and a £1 fine for reckless driving, show "the relative importance placed

upon such misdemeanours by the Pitcairners, and their priorities in turpitude" (P. 45).

The Society comments:

The early fines of £10 and £1 cited by the Commissioner are not a reflection of the Pitcairners' "priorities in turpitude". The fine for £10 for fornication was fixed by Governor Denison.

8. EFFECTS OF INBREEDING

Sir John Nimmo comments:

There were "ill effects from too close inbreeding amongst the Pitcairners" (P. 39).

The Society comments:

The Commissioner's mention of "ill effects from too close inbreeding amongst the Pitcairners" is defamatory to us and is contrary to the findings of a published scientific study on Pitcairn and Norfolk Island in the 1920/30's conducted by Harry L. Shapiro, later President of the American Anthropological Association who found no evidence of any physical or mental deterioration whatever, apart from some dental problems of unknown origin on Pitcairn.

9. THE DETERIORATION OF THE PITCAIRNERS

Sir John Nimmo comments:

Although the Pitcairners had been admirable in the early and mid 19th century, by 1885 on Norfolk Island they had deteriorated. They were reported by a Sydney magistrate as follows:

"Here, the whole system, and everything arising from it, is rotten... I believe there is more immorality of all kinds here, according to population, than in any other civilised part of the world" (P. 30).

The Society answers:

The excerpt from the 1885 report of Henry Wilkinson, cited by the Commissioner as evidence of the moral deterioration of the Pitcairners on Norfolk, is an untruthful and emotional outburst, taken out of context. The Pitcairners had not, even by the wildest stretch of the imagination, become the most immoral people in the civilised world.

Statistics concerning ex-nuptial births on the island at the time, which can be calculated from Wilkinson's own report, indicate that they were probably not materially different from those in New South Wales at the same time.

The most flagrant crime described by Wilkinson was referred to by him as "a serious case of stabbing" but proved to be a quarrel between two sisters, one of whom threw a pair of scissors at the other, cutting her on the arm.

Wilkinson's statement that "the whole system and everything arising from it is rotten" conflicts with other contemporary reports telling of the island's peaceable society, and seems to us an extravagant and unwarranted inclusion in the Commissioner's 1975 Report.

10. THE EVICTIONS

Sir John Nimmo comments:

A "disruptive" event occurred in 1908. Houses at Kingston "had been occupied by the Pitcairners who allowed them to fall into a state of disrepair. Some of the Pitcairners refused to accept occupation licences, which would have required them to repair and maintain their rent-free buildings, and they were evicted in 1908" (P. 45).

The Society comments:

The houses at Kingston, occupied by the Pitcairners, were not reserved as Crown property. An internal Colonial Office memorandum of 1908, the year of the evictions, said "The argument... that the houses in question were in a Government reserve is not worth much. For it is clear that Sir Wm. Denison meant only those houses not needed by the people to be reserved, which de facto was not the case with these houses."

The "occupation licences" referred to by the Commissioner were not simply licences but were actually releases of any future claim to ownership of the houses. Most Pitcairners refused to sign such releases and were evicted.

Perhaps the main reason that the houses were in less than good repair was that there was no trained plasterer on Norfolk Island. Following the evictions the Government did not repair the houses but let them decay into ruin.

11. PROPORTION OF LAND OWNED BY PITCAIRNERS

Sir John Nimmo comments:

Pitcairners allege that land ownership on Norfolk Island is deeply important to them, but in fact there is "obvious evidence of willingness to sell what was allegedly such a highly regarded and traditional possession, provided the price was attractive enough." As a result, "less than half of the original earlier grants of land are still in the hands of Pitcairn descendants" (P. 72).

The Society comments:

The Commissioner implies that Pitcairners generally are quick to sell their land if the price is right. That is incorrect. A few of them have been. Some, for personal reasons, have had to place land on the market but have done this with greatest reluctance.

The majority of both freehold and Crown leasehold land on Norfolk is in the hands of Pitcairners, according to a 1977 analysis by the Registrar. The Royal Commission Report is in error in stating that less than half is in Pitcairn hands.

12. THE MOTIVES OF NEW SETTLERS

Sir John Nimmo comments:

Many non-Pitcairners have settled on Norfolk Island, particularly since the early 1960's. With "a few notable exceptions" these people have come to the island "predominantly for the monetary advantage which the business opportunities and taxation status of the island afford them" (P. 69).

The Society comments:

The reasons that have caused "mainlanders" to wish to settle on Norfolk Island in recent years are probably known only to the individuals themselves.

On the basis of our knowledge of Norfolk Island, we believe the Commissioner's opinion - that all but a few newcomers have come here for money reasons - is incorrect and unfair. Perhaps a few people have come here for such reasons. We believe the great majority have come for much broader human reasons, and they have on the whole been well-received by Pitcairners and have fitted well into

the community.

More recently, immigration policies have made the purchase of a business a pre-requisite of entry into the island. Many people, attracted by the beauty of the island, the strong community feeling, and the freedom from stress and pressure, have bought a business in order to settle here. If such people must prove they are not interested in financial gain by running their business in a mediocre, inefficient manner, surely no one benefits.

In no way were the Pitcairners themselves disadvantaged by the presence of tax-avoidance schemes on Norfolk Island. They provided revenue through company registrations, employment to a few in offices, and had far less effect on the visible landscape and on our life-style than commercial tourist development. We have only been threatened with economic deprivation when such activities have attracted unwarranted attentions from the Australian government, and when, to protect her own interests, Australia has extended her taxation legislation to Norfolk Island.

13. BITTER RESENTMENT AND ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION

Sir John Nimmo comments:

"Many Pitcairn descendants bitterly resent what they regard as the misuse of their island by many newcomers... they equally resent the presence of commercialism... (and they) feel that they have become the economically deprived inhabitants of their homeland, (and) fear that before long they will lose control over their own destiny and of their Island" (P. 62-3).

The Society comments:

As Pitcairners, we disagree most strongly with the Commissioner's generalisation that we "bitterly resent" supposed misuse of the island and its commercial development, and that we feel "economically deprived" in our own homeland. Such complaints may perhaps be heard from a few persons and would be no different from the objections voiced in any country or community against materialism or commercialism. Many people in any country hark back to the good old days but would be unwilling to go back if given the opportunity.

In reality, commercial development has meant that new job opportunities have been created rather than newcom-

ers filling existing positions. Young people have had opportunities to develop new skills and to find suitable positions on the island rather than on the mainland. Wives have been able to find casual and permanent positions to supplement family income and improve their standard of living. While this may have its disadvantages, it is a trend the world over, and we Pitcairners are as vulnerable to social change as any group of people. Moreover, most Pitcairners recognise that most newcomers, including those involved in commercial interests, have in their own way contributed to the corporate life of the community. Business houses are generous in their donations to charitable and community concerns, and many individuals are involved in community activities such as church, sporting groups, clubs and societies. Their success in business is usually indicative of an enterprising spirit and intelligence which can only be of benefit as they involve themselves in the community.

Moreover, investigation reveals that a very large proportion of businesses are actually owned and/or managed by Pitcairners. Many are long established family concerns, such as palm seed export, but many are directly connected with the tourist industry and would suffer if the industry were damaged by the full implementation of the Nimmo Report.

The implications in this section P. 62-63, that Pitcairners are exploited, and that they form the bulk of the menial labour market, are without foundation.

14. CHANGING LIFESTYLE

Sir John Nimmo comments:

"In so far as Pitcairn descendants are concerned, it is a far cry indeed from the simple communal subsistence style of living to which they had previously been accustomed..." (P. 62)

The Society comments:

Sir John perhaps equates a simple way of life with the absence of deep freezers, motor vehicles, and stereo equipment. Most Pitcairn families have enjoyed a degree of sophistication for generations as far as their isolation and lack of communication permitted. Since the earliest days of the arrival of the Pitcairners on Norfolk, they have built gracious homes using the finest of materials and workmanship.

Old photos show both men and women well-dressed. They enjoyed a rich cultural life, influenced to a large extent by the Melanesian Mission.

Pitcairners were enterprising and successful in local business and industries, and utilised the most modern equipment in so far as the availability of fuel and generation of power permitted. (Up until only 10 years ago, a large proportion of homes generated their own power, and many still used kerosene lanterns.)

Subsistence-style living was more a result of difficulties in obtaining supplies from Australia, and a desire to enjoy those foods which had been traditional in Polynesian society. These foods are still grown today by many Pitcairners for the enjoyment of their family and friends.

We do not deny that our Pitcairn community has been subject to material and social change, in so much as any human society must grow and change. If we didn't, we would be moribund, and much in need of Australia's paternal care. However, we maintain that we still enjoy a very different way of life from the mainland, free from many of the pressures and stresses of a modern society, and most of our visitors from the mainland would support this view.

15. SUPERFICIAL FRIENDLINESS

Sir John Nimmo comments:

"A feature of this modern society (on the Island) is the number of factions which exist... A superficial friendliness and conviviality masks a deal of resentment and dislike among some of the groups" (P. 62).

The Society comments:

It is a favourite occupation of outsiders and newcomers to compartmentalise Norfolk society. For the sake of the exercise, we could add considerably to Sir John's list of factions - "itinerant workers", "young louts", "Poms", "Kiwis", "Admin. employees", "those who frequent the clubs", "the Methodists" (or the Anglicans, the Catholics, the S.D.A's), "the Buffetts" (or the Christians, the Nobbs, the McCoys etc...). It is only normal for one person to gravitate towards others who share common blood ties, the same ethnic background, similar sporting or cultural interests, or

even those in the same general income bracket or age group.

It is because of our strong background ties, and our common aims that we have banded together to form our Pitcairn Descendants' Society. We recognise that it is a common human failing to label and generalise about members of a group. However, for all practical purposes, we live and work alongside people from many varied backgrounds. A survey of any community organisation would reveal a sprinkling of people from all different factions - Pitcairners, mainlanders, business people, retired people. Their conviviality and friendliness is not merely superficial, or hypocritical as Sir John implies. It is a genuine quality which makes them worthwhile and productive members of a small community.

As in any small community, we tend to feel the effects of the views and actions of minority groups more strongly, but we are really far less insular in this regard than many small rural communities, because we enjoy the broadening influence of so many visitors.

We do feel resentment when an individual or a minority group draws unfavourable attention to the island, either by broadcasting views which purport to represent the island as a whole, or by conducting activities which are unscrupulous, illegal or immoral. For this we need safeguards. We need a democratically elected body who are recognised by Australia as the official will of the people of the island. We need the opportunity to express our views on vital issues such as Norfolk's future by means of a referendum. And we need effective controls to ensure that the activities of any group or individual are for the good of the island and all its people.

16. A FACTION- RIDDLED COMMUNITY

Sir John Nimmo comments:

Norfolk Island today is "a faction-riddled community devoid of a clear sense of direction and at the mercy of interests which have only their own personal aggrandisement at heart, to the detriment of the island and its way of life" (P. 76).

The Society comments:

Norfolk Island and its people have in fact been denied any official means of manifesting what their sense of di-

rection is. The unanimous voice of our elected representatives on the Norfolk Island Council has been ignored to date, yet these were elected with a strong majority on the platform of executive power for the Norfolk Island Council. Councillors attempting to formulate policies for Norfolk's future have not been granted any facilities for two-way discussion with Australia to enable them to clarify or modify their ideas or to give their policies a sound and practical basis.

The island residents have been denied the right to declare their common will by means of a referendum, and a subsequent effort to ascertain views of residents through the signing of solemn declarations was belittled by the representative of the Australian government.

The accusation of vested and personal interest is a time-worn one, and cannot be proved. Each of us, rich or poor, has a very personal interest in Australia's policies for Norfolk because we feel our standard of living, our life-style, and, for Pitcairners, our pride of race, are threatened. One man's fortune is not necessarily made at the expense of another and, in fact, in a small, close-knit community, one man's well-being is very much dependent on the well-being of others.

Sir John Nimmo would prefer that we remained a simple, subsistence community, devoid of all enterprise or ambition. This is unrealistic, but if it were true, it would be a very good case for Australia assuming direct control of all our affairs.

In reality, most of those who have been accused of personal vested interests have, by virtue of our strictest immigration laws, come into our community on our terms. They have come because of our way of life and personal freedom which they felt attracted to. They have usually been asked to burn their bridges behind them, and then wait a minimum of 5 years before being assured of residency status. Many live unpretentiously, continue to pay taxation on their private incomes, and meanwhile contribute both their skills, time and material assistance as they participate in the cultural, community and business life of the island.

To describe us as being "at the mercy" of those with only self-interests at heart is to underestimate our own intelligence or integrity.

If the voice of a few individuals is often heard more loudly than the others, it is for many reasons. Most newcomers, or people residing here

for short terms, prefer to be silent rather than allow their views to be heard above those of the Pitcairners into whose homeland they have been welcomed. The Pitcairners themselves are too courteous and good-mannered to speak with great vehemence, or to use the aggressive tactics common in mainland politics.

Sir John advocates that an "all-embracing, long-term policy" (P. 76) is needed, and this view we endorse. This policy should, however, come from our elected Norfolk Island Council, and not from Australia. We strongly support our Council in their moves to formulate a Constitution for the island, and urge that Australia should give them the recognition and co-operation they merit.

17. THE PROPORTION OF PEOPLE WHO POSSESS THE PITCAIRN HERITAGE

Sir John Nimmo comments:

"The Pitcairn heritage is, after all, now the proud possession of under one-half of the adult community..." (P. 89)

The Society comments:

Since our heritage is something which we hand down to our children, we feel that they should be included in such statistics.

It should also be realised that a large proportion of the non-Pitcairn residents are retired couples, or other residents who cannot pass residency rights on to their children. Many others are people living here for short term, such as teachers, bank employees, Department of Transport employees etc.

When the Australian government considers Norfolk's future, it should consider mainly those who live here permanently and those whose offspring are likely to live here in the future. Of this number, the Pitcairn percentage is considerably larger.

The Pitcairn heritage is held not by a dwindling few, but by families constituting more than half of the population. We do not believe that this heritage is diminishing, but rather that it is enriched with each new generation. Moreover, it has gained new strength and value for us in the light of the threat posed by the Royal Commission recommendations.

We are opposed to the idea that our traditions and culture be preserved by "some section within the Norfolk Island Public Service" as if we were merely

some object of historical and anthropological interest. Our traditions are a living thing, part of our make-up and way of life. Provided we have a greater say in our own affairs, and are freed from the threat of externally-imposed changes such as envisaged by the Royal Commission Report, we are well able to preserve our culture for ourselves.

18. COMFORTABLE AND SPLENDID ISOLATION

Sir John comments:

"To maintain the 1600 residents of Norfolk Island in the comfortable and splendid isolation to which they feel entitled..." (P.144)

The Society comments:

This highly emotional, subjective statement suggests that the people of Norfolk demand special favours and protection from Australia in order to enjoy freedom from economic and political pressures and responsibilities.

On the contrary, we would like to see a return to the executive authority and responsibility for own affairs that the Pitcairners enjoyed last century both on Pitcairn and Norfolk. We would like the opportunity to manage our own economy and to govern ourselves in a manner appropriate to what we believe is a unique place. What we seek from Australia is co-operation and guidance, and only as much protection as she would be prepared to offer to any of her near neighbours.

What Pitcairners are fighting to maintain is something more than "comfortable and splendid isolation". It is rather a pride in their race and in a unique and colourful history. Even though we may eventually adjust to any economic changes that would ensue from implementation of the Nimmo Report, we fear that a unique people, culture and life-style would become submerged and lost - in the words of Mr. W. Forsyth, formerly Secretary-General of the South Pacific Commission - "genocide".

19. AUSTRALIA'S INTERESTS MUST COME FIRST

Sir John Nimmo comments:

"...the Island's interests must be viewed in the context of those other interests and responsibilities of the larger entity Australia..." (P.80)

The Society comments:

In this, as in other comments, the Commissioner regards the interests of Norfolk Island as secondary to those of Australia, because of the supposedly heavy subsidy Australia contributes to the maintenance of the island's economy.

We Pitcairners maintain, as has been said many times before, that the amount of this subsidy has been grossly exaggerated. Nor should it be supposed that the island's financial burden to Australia would be any less if we were fully integrated into Australia, notwithstanding that we would be contributing by way of taxation.

Moreover, we feel Sir John has again failed to recognise the full import of his terms of reference, where he was asked to take into account "the interests of Norfolk Island residents" (point (a)).

20. IF NORFOLK ISLAND SHOULD SINK

Sir John Nimmo comments:

Norfolk Island "offers a pleasant holiday venue for Australians and New Zealanders, but if it sank in the Pacific following an earthquake, intending holiday makers would soon find an alternative" (P.143).

The Society comments:

No doubt this highly irrational and irrelevant comment was provoked by Sir John's frustrations in seeking an easy agreeable solution to the anomaly of Norfolk's situation. He sees our disappearance into the sea as the only satisfactory alternative to com-

plete integration into Australia, because he doesn't feel we merit the provision of specific government machinery and legislation to cope with our unique situation.

No doubt the loss of Norfolk as a tourist resort would mean little to Australia, but to take this attitude is to ignore the basic terms of reference of the Royal Commission. The tourist industry is the basis of our economy. While we do not ask for special protection or favours to the detriment of Australia's interests, we do seek to continue to function as a tourist destination without the harmful restrictions and changes that implementation of the Nimmo Report would bring.

IN SUMMARY, an ugly picture of the Pitcairners is presented through the Nimmo Report. They are portrayed as a people from bad seed who deteriorated and behaved discredibly. They became the most immoral people in the civilised world. Inbreeding led to genetic damage. In recent years they have been outnumbered, exploited and economically deprived by ruthless outsiders.

So far as the Royal Commission's terms of reference are concerned, the interests of residents are less important than Australia's interests, and the imagined "historical rights" of the Pitcairners are without any foundation at all.

If this were a true picture, it would seem to give grounds for Sir John's recommendations - that Norfolk Island should be brought under strict policy control from Canberra - that there should be some minimal form of local shire government - that all Australian laws should be made to apply to Norfolk Island - and that the island should have a token form of representation in Parliament.

But the picture presented in the Nimmo Report is not truthful. It is a serious misrepresentation, based on errors of fact.

SECTION II. THE FUTURE OF THE PITCAIRNERS AND THEIR SURVIVAL AS A DISTINCT RACE.

The Society of Pitcairn Descendants believes that the Report of the Royal Commission presents a distorted and inaccurate picture of the history and the present condition of the Pitcairn people, and should not be used as the basis of future policies

towards us.

We recognise that as a people we have problems and grievances, but we do not believe Sir John Nimmo has identified them correctly, nor would his recommendations solve them. On the contrary, if his recom-

mendations were implemented, we fear for the survival of our heritage, our self-esteem, and our distinctiveness as a race.

In considering the future of the island, and its Pitcairn families, we believe the following matters should

be taken into account:

1. OUR HISTORY

The true facts of our background and history are very different from the degrading picture and patronising perspective to be found in the Nimmo Report. Sir John has perpetuated the attitude shown by officialdom for over a century that we are an inferior race, suffering the so-called harmful effects of our violent beginnings, our Polynesian blood, inbreeding, isolation and insularity, and that we are therefore in need of paternal protection. Our quiet, non-assertive nature has been mistaken for an inability to exercise intelligent discretion.

2. THE PITCAIRN RACE TODAY

We believe that from difficult and unusual beginnings we have built a sound and wholesome community, meriting approval and support rather than disdain and pity. The Australian Government should acknowledge that the Report represents a seriously damaging and inaccurate picture of the Pitcairn race today. It is damaging to us because it presumes our inability to exercise a real role in Norfolk's future. In actual fact, we represent a greater percentage of the permanent population than the Report would imply. We are active in all aspects of community life including commerce, industry, politics and administration. We are a healthy and intelligent group of people suffering none of the supposed effects of isolation and inbreeding, and we will not be deprived or exploited unless Sir John's recommendations take from our hands the power to control our own affairs.

3. THE PITCAIRNERS AS A DISTINCT RACE

We call on the Australian Government to acknowledge that the Pitcairn race has its own distinct bloodlines, culture, traditions and language. Although this is an obvious and historically verifiable fact, it appears that current Australian policy is to deny it.

According to the 1975 Report of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, titled "United Nations Involvement with

Australian Territories", the population of Norfolk is "ethnically and culturally akin to that of the mainland".

We are not homogenous with the population of the Australian mainland, but have a separate identity. A recognition of this fact is vital to an understanding of why we are anxious not to be integrated into Australia.

4. RECOGNITION AND PRESERVATION OF PITCAIRN RIGHTS AND HERITAGE

We believe that our Pitcairn heritage should be preserved, not as a quaint museum piece, or as an object of historical interest, or even as a part of Australia's "National Estate". Rather it should be preserved because our heritage is a living thing in which we as a people take pride. Our heritage is subject to growth and change, but this change should come from ourselves and not be imposed by Australia.

We survive as a people, and we wish to continue to survive and grow, maintaining our self-esteem, and exercising an intelligent role in our future.

5. NON - PITCAIRNERS ON NORFOLK ISLAND

Because we desire that the rights of the Pitcairners should be acknowledged in any legislation for Norfolk Island, it does not mean that non-Pitcairners need be disadvantaged. We as a people have always welcomed into our community others who share our ideals and fit into our way of life. This, of course, includes our spouses, long-term residents and newer residents. Many who are able to feel at home with our Pitcairn traditions settle permanently and greatly enrich our community.

It should be realised that a large proportion of our non-Pitcairn population are people here on a short-term basis. Others are retired people whose own children, if any, have made their own lives elsewhere. Both these groups are only part of the permanent population of Norfolk in a very limited sense.

6. IMMIGRATION

The traditional right of Pitcairn descendants to return to live on Nor-

folk Island must be maintained, as it is essential to the continuation of Norfolk as our homeland. Moreover, this right should be backed by suitable legislation. We do not believe this right should be denied by the extension of the Racial Discrimination Act to Norfolk. This Act, as with other Australian legislation, is not appropriate to our unique situation.

7. SOCIAL WELFARE

The preservation of our traditions and culture requires that we continue to have a social welfare system based on family and friends. We recognise that as our community grows and becomes more complex, some of our community aid can suitably be channelled through our local administration by a small, simple local tax which may be distributed in the form of pensions to those who need them. We believe, however, that it would be damaging to our pride and our way of life if we were forced to become part of a vast, impersonal, centrally-financed social welfare system, and a high scale of cash tax payments. Such a move would be damaging to both our identity and our economy. Without the alleged benefits of a social welfare system, we are basically a happy and contented community, and wish to remain so.

8. LAWS

While Norfolk's laws have become more complicated than our early laws on Pitcairn, they are still simple compared with the vast network of legislation that exists on the mainland. We desire to continue our relatively simple set of laws and judicial procedures as part of our culture. Moreover, we believe that all our laws should be specifically designed to meet our situation on Norfolk, and that Australian laws should not be extended blanket-fashion to cover Norfolk Island.

9. ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNMENT

We agree that Norfolk Island's Administration is a relic of former times, and must be replaced. We firmly believe it should be replaced by an effective form of democratic local self-government such as we enjoyed for some 100 years before 1896, and for half a century before Australians themselves exercised

Responsible Government. We believe we are far more competent to understand our needs and aspirations than a remote official or department in Australia, and that we are capable of exercising an intelligent responsibility for our own affairs.

Whatever the difficulties of proving Norfolk's constitutional relationship to Australia in the past, we respectfully point out that the first term of reference for the Royal Commission

refers to "the future status of Norfolk Island". Australia must accept as an "anomaly", rather than attempt to merge us into an Australian system which, for historical and practical reasons, is not appropriate for us.

We wish to continue to be associated with Australia under Her Majesty the Queen, to whom we have always been loyal. We understand and accept that there may be certain safeguards or limitations that Australia may wish to impose in return

for our continuing association as a territory.

We also recognise that in any transition to self-government, we would lean heavily on Australia's guidance and expertise.

Above all, because we believe strongly in principles of freedom and democracy, we desire that any changes made to our constitutional status and administration should be endorsed by the people of Norfolk Island, by referendum, before they take effect.

SECTION III. INFORMATION AND STATISTICS CONCERNING THE POSITION OF THE PITCAIRNERS IN THE LIFE OF NORFOLK ISLAND TODAY.

The following data is designed to demonstrate the active participation of Pitcairn descendants in the general business, professional and administrative life of the island today.

Except where indicated, only actual proprietors of businesses have been listed. Further investigation would reveal large numbers occupying responsible positions.

Businesses which are ostensibly owned and/or controlled by spouses of Pitcairners have not been listed.

These lists are not necessarily exhaustive.

TOURIST ACCOMMODATION

Mrs. Jean Mitchell
Mr. L. C. Christian-Bailey
Mr. B. E. Christian-Bailey
Mrs. H. Martin
Mr. W. B. Evans
Mrs. G. Hancherow
Mr. S. Nobbs
Mrs. E. Tavener
Mr. P. Christian
Mr. L. Evans

TOUR OPERATORS/ FISHING TOURS

Miss M. A. Bailey
Mr. R. McPhail

TAXIS/HIRE CARS/ GARAGES

Mr. A. L. McCoy
Mr. W. B. Evans
Mr. R. Holloway
Mr. W. W. Sanders
Mr. N. Tavener

CINEMA PROPRIETOR

Mr. R. Smith

NEWSPAPER EDITOR/ PRINTING

Mr. T. Lloyd

ENTERTAINMENT

Mr. D. Reynolds
Mr. D. Smith
Mr. G. Smith

TEACHERS/PLAY CENTRE SUPERVISION

Miss F. Bataille
Mrs. L. Kilbourne

NURSING

Miss G. Jenkins
Mrs. R. McCoy
Miss P. Evans
Mrs. P. Adams

DRESSMAKING

Mrs. J. Robertson

BUTCHERY

Mr. E. Snell
Mr. L. Evans
Mr. W. W. Sanders

PIG FARMING/DAIRY FARMING/MARKET

GARDENING
Mr. J. Christian
Mr. C. F. Christian
Mr. L. Evans

Mr. A. K. Evans
Mr. W. W. Sanders
Mr. L. C. Tavener

RESTAURANTS/ TAKE-AWAY FOODS

Mrs. E. Yager
Mr. G. Adams

LADIES HAIRDRESSING

Mrs. L. Wotherspoon

TIMBER MILLING

Mr. H. M. Christian
Mr. J. Nobbs
Mr. H. Buffett
Mr. J. Quintal

TRANSPORT/CARTAGE/ GARBAGE DISPOSAL

Mr. A. Nobbs
Mr. K. Quintal
Mr. L. Quintal
Mr. J. Kilbourne
Mr. D. Reynolds

EARTHMOVING/GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Mr. G. Quintal Jnr.
Mr. K. Christian

CLEANING CONTRACTOR

Mr. A. Bigg

LAND AGENT/AUCTIONEER

Mr. G. G. F. Quintal Snr.
Mr. G. Buffett

RETAILING

Mr. G. Adams
Mr. A. Bathie
Mr. W. Blucher
Mrs. C. Holloway
Mrs. N. J. Mitchell
Mr. K. J. Nobbs
Mr. T. Yager

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

Mr. R. Buffett
Mr. D. Christian

PLUMBING CONTRACTORS

Mr. K. A. Evans
Mr. B. Adams

BUILDING CONTRACTORS

Mr. R. F. Nobbs
Mr. L. C. Christian-Bailey
Mr. Chas. Buffett
Mr. John Kilbourne

PITCAIRNERS EMPLOYED BY N. I. ADMINISTRATION

Pitcairn Descendants	Total 71
" " - Spouse	13
	<u>84</u>

Total Administration	
Permanent Staff	<u>129</u>

% Pitcairners/Spouses Employed by Norfolk Island Administration	65%
---	-----

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION POSITIONS HELD BY PITCAIRNERS/SPOUSE

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
ACCOUNTANT *
INTERNAL AUDITOR
POSTMASTER
REGISTRAR
REVENUE MANAGER *
CHIEF CUSTOMS OFFICER
WORKS MANAGER
FORESTRY OFFICER
PHILATELIC OFFICER
COMPANY REGISTRAR *

* Denotes Spouse of Pitcairner

CHILDREN OF PITCAIRNERS

Class	Class Total	No. of Pitcairners
Kindergarten	31	15
Year 1	33	21
2	34	16
3	36	19
4	31	15
5	26	20
6	17	9
7	22	10
8	28	20
9	23	15
10	16	11
	<u>297</u>	<u>171</u>

Percentage of Pitcairners enrolled
in Norfolk Island Public School - 58%.

NORFOLK ISLAND, AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED NATIONS

Editor's note: This report was prepared for the United Nations Association of Australia by Mr. J. G. Bulbeck, the Hon. Federal Media Officer of the Association. Mr. Bulbeck was formerly a Reuters reporter stationed at the U.N. in New York.

The report was sent by the President of the Association to the Minister for Home Affairs and the Minister for Foreign Affairs in March. The Federal Executive of the Association is to meet in Australia April 15-16, and will consider the Australian Government's response to the report, and appropriate further actions for the Association.

The Appendix of the report, which includes reproductions of many U.N., Australian and Norfolk Island documents and is approximately three times as long as the report itself, is not reproduced here.

A. INTRODUCTION.

This report is the result of a private visit to Norfolk Island from January 16-27, 1978, by the writer, during which he made some enquiries on behalf of the Federal Executive of the United Nations Association of Australia arising from a resolution of the U.N.A.A. Federal Conference.

The report is concerned with a situation of unsettling conflict that currently exists between the people of Norfolk Island, a non-self-governing colony of Australia, and the Commonwealth Government which is the administering authority. The subject of the conflict is the island's social, political and cultural future.

The report views this conflict from the perspective of Australia's obligations to the international community as a member nation of the United Nations - especially those obligations arising from Article 73 of the U.N. Charter; Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; applicable sections of Resolution 1514 (XV), the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to the Colonial Countries and Peoples, and Resolu-

tion 1541 on Principles for defining self-governing territories; and Article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (which is identical with Article 1 of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights). These are reproduced in Appendix A.

It sets out to identify salient characteristics of the current situation based on research of available documentation and discussions with residents of Norfolk Island.

It strongly suggests that the Australian Government pursue a policy of self-determination for Norfolk Island and outlines a procedure which would implement such a policy and fairly resolve the conflict.

The report concludes with a set of recommendations for action considered appropriate for the United Nations Association of Australia. These are mainly aimed at stimulating the political will among Australian decision-makers to develop a just and peaceful resolution of the current conflict in the spirit of the U.N. Charter and with all deliberate speed.

The report does not pretend to be exhaustive. It seeks to confine itself to aspects of the current situation. Nevertheless, its findings have the power of self-evident reality that cannot be ignored except at the peril of two key matters of continuing U.N.A.A. concern: Australia's good standing in the international community, and that community's still-fragile corpus of procedures for the peaceful resolution of conflict so painstakingly developed by the U.N. system.

Appendices to the report contain documents gathered and/or examined and a list of people on Norfolk Island with whom the current situation was discussed. A bibliography of other relevant publications is also attached.

An etymological point: to avoid repetitious allusion to the mix of political, social, economic, environmental and cultural factors that go to make up Norfolk Island as a total entity, the word "polity" is used. It is meant in that total sense of all factors.

...ooOoo...

B. THE CURRENT CONFLICT.

As will be noted later, Norfolk Island has a rich history of almost continual disputation over its development as an island polity. The current conflict is but the latest episode in that history. It should be the last.

At issue is a strongly felt wish of what appears to be a clear majority of the residents of Norfolk Island to gain formal status as a self-governing Crown Colony of Australia. This wish is coupled with resentment over Australia's unwillingness, up to the end of 1977, to move promptly and responsively to resolve the issue once and for all.

The current state of conflict had its genesis in the decision of the Whitlam administration in 1975 to give Sir John Nimmo a Royal Commission to recommend on the future status of Norfolk Island and its constitutional relationship with Australia and on other associated matters.

The Nimmo Report, presented in October 1976 (see Bibliography), essentially recommended that if Australia did not want to abandon Norfolk Island then it must absorb it and its people into metropolitan Australia, tax them, attach them to an A.C.T. electorate and give them some autonomy through a modified form of municipal government.

The Norfolk Island response has been to publish a draft Constitution providing for a Crown Colony status with its own legislature, its own executive administration, its own courts, its own Bill of Rights and a clearly defined association with Australia.

In U.N. terms - specifically, the options provided for by Principle VI of Resolution 1541 (XV) of complete independence, or free association with an independent state or integration with an independent state - the Nimmo Report recommends integration, but the Norfolk Islanders want free association with Australia.

What does Australia say? Therein is the underlying essence of the current conflict. Despite a sharp rebuke from Sir John Nimmo about the "complete absence of any written, agreed, long-

term policies for the Island" in 64 years of Australian hegemony, the Commonwealth Government continues to procrastinate.

An official pronouncement from the then responsible Federal Minister in December, 1975, in response to the Nimmo Report, said only that Norfolk would remain a territory of Australia and that the Federal Government would continue to accept responsibility for maintaining Norfolk Island as a viable community.

In summary, Australia has ruled out independence but so far has refused to commit itself on the critical question of self-government. To worsen the matter, in the 12 months after the Nimmo Report the Fraser administration, through the responsible Minister, appears to have abruptly and at times rudely refused to become involved in meaningful discussions, let alone make any commitment about self-determination.

The conflict intensified to the point where during 1977, key members of the Norfolk Island community sought to take up the matter with the United Nations. Fortunately for Australia, their method was flawed and their attempt came to naught - at that time.

Since December 1977, Canberra responsibility for Norfolk Island has been switched from the Ministry of Administrative Services to the new Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Minister with that portfolio is the Hon. R.J. Ellicott, Q.C. Because he has had a personal involvement with Norfolk Island and, as a result, made a favourable impact, the intensity of the conflict has dropped.

But the conflict remains and the Islanders are still watchful.

A factor now assuming some importance is timing. The present advisory Council ends its term of office in the middle of this year and elections for the eight positions are scheduled for June. The approach of polling day will inevitably create a sense of deadline besides heightening pressure for decisions, especially as the question of the Island's future will loom large in pre-election activity.

Ideally initial steps to begin resolving the dispute should be taken well before the Council election.

...ooOoo...

C. THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT: NORFOLK ISLAND.

Norfolk Island is a non-self-governing colony of Australia comprising some 1,600 people permanently residing on a 3,500 hectare island of delightful aspect

in the South Pacific ocean 1,400 kilometres east of the Australian mainland.

Basic details of geography, demography, administration, economy, communication and currency are provided as a background note in Appendix B.

Norfolk Island and its people do not readily fit the conventional perception of a subjugated colonial polity. In the eyes of most Australians the name Norfolk Island probably conjures up visions of an interesting tourist haven with duty-free shopping and lovely pine trees, populated by Australian descendants of the Bounty mutineers; or an Australian off-shore tax haven through which Australian capitalists channel funds to beat the Taxation Commissioner through complicated schemes.

It is a very fuzzy identity. Norfolk Island is taken for granted as being Australian - and beyond that, as just another vaguely interesting island. But such stereotyped perceptions do not conform with the reality of the Island and its people.

As can be gleaned from the Background Note, Norfolk Island is most decidedly not Australian. In fact, Australians are a cultural minority. And politically its residents are the rather fatalistic victims of unintended, but still shabby bureaucratic repressiveness generated by a system totally out of keeping with Australian beliefs in fairness and equality and Australian practices of self-determination and community involvement.

Their situation also happens to be in rather flagrant violation of the U.N. Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Australia is a signatory.

It is a tribute to, among other things, the Islanders' general temperament of civilised tolerance and introspective humility, nurtured by their isolation, that they have endured this state of affairs so quietly. Elsewhere political ferment would not only have been inevitable; it would have erupted into more violent forms of conflict long before this.

The two points about cultural characteristics and political rights warrant highlighting in more detail.

Firstly, the resident population of Norfolk Island is made up of three distinct groups. Some 40% are "Pitcairners", descendants of the mixed English-Tahitian group which originally settled Pitcairn Island in 1789, then transferred to Norfolk Island in 1856. They have their own language (generally described as a mix of old west county English and Tahitian) which they speak among themselves with English as a second language. Generally they prize their own unique life-style built on extended

family networks, strong religious observance and a special sense of community with its own social rituals and its own spirit of sharing and self-help.

The second group are the "Mainlanders" who have settled on the Island in more recent times. The two predominant sub-groups, of about equal size, are New Zealanders and Australians. They account for some 23% each of the total population. The next biggest sub-group are English (about 9%) while the remaining 5% come from a wide range of other countries.

The third group are a transient service group of about 150 at any time, mainly young New Zealanders and Australians on transfer in the banks, the hospital and the school, or on working holidays - as tradespeople or as employees in tourist plants.

In addition, at any one time, there would be up to 400 tourists on the Island.

In sum, while Australia is the administering authority, Australians form a very decided minority.

Secondly, the Norfolk Island community has a rich history of civilised disputation with their faraway rulers - be they British or Australian. Britain exercised colonial sovereignty over Norfolk Island from 1774 to 1914 when it transferred its sovereignty to Australia. This disputation has generated innumerable official inquiries and investigations, the latest being the Royal Commission of Sir John Nimmo. After a 17-month enquiry, the Nimmo Report was handed down in October 1976, and threw the Island into yet another turmoil of uncertainty.

Some of the flavour of Norfolk Island's intriguing political history is conveyed in the Nimmo Report as well as in other documentation listed in the Bibliography, notably Merval Hoare, and provided in Appendices, particularly the Norfolk Island Council Papers (Appendix D), and the Basic Historical Documents (Appendix J).

It remains for a sound social historian with a good political and legal background to provide a definite account of the ebbs and flows of Norfolk Island's development as a polity. Nevertheless, it is quite clear that in 1978:

1. Norfolk Island is still what it started out as - "a distinct and separate settlement".
2. It has its own basic laws and its own courts quite distinct from Australia's.
3. It has a social support infrastructure that bears no resemblance to Australia's.
4. Its fiscus and the manner of its

HERBS
HONEY #
ZAHIDI DATES
PUMPKIN KERNELS
CALIFORNIA FIGS # BRAN
MUESLI # WALNUTS # CASHEW
PECANS # PEANUTS # CURRANTS
DRIED APPLES, PINEAPPLES,
GINGER, BANANAS # SESAME
SEEDS # CIDER # STONEGROUND
FLOUR # LICORICE # VITAMIN
& MINERAL SUPPLEMENT
WHOLE MILK BIS -
CUITS # JAMS
HERBAL
TEA

'HETTAE' - NORFOLK'S OWN

HEALTH FOOD SHOP

In the little cottage
at Aunt Em's

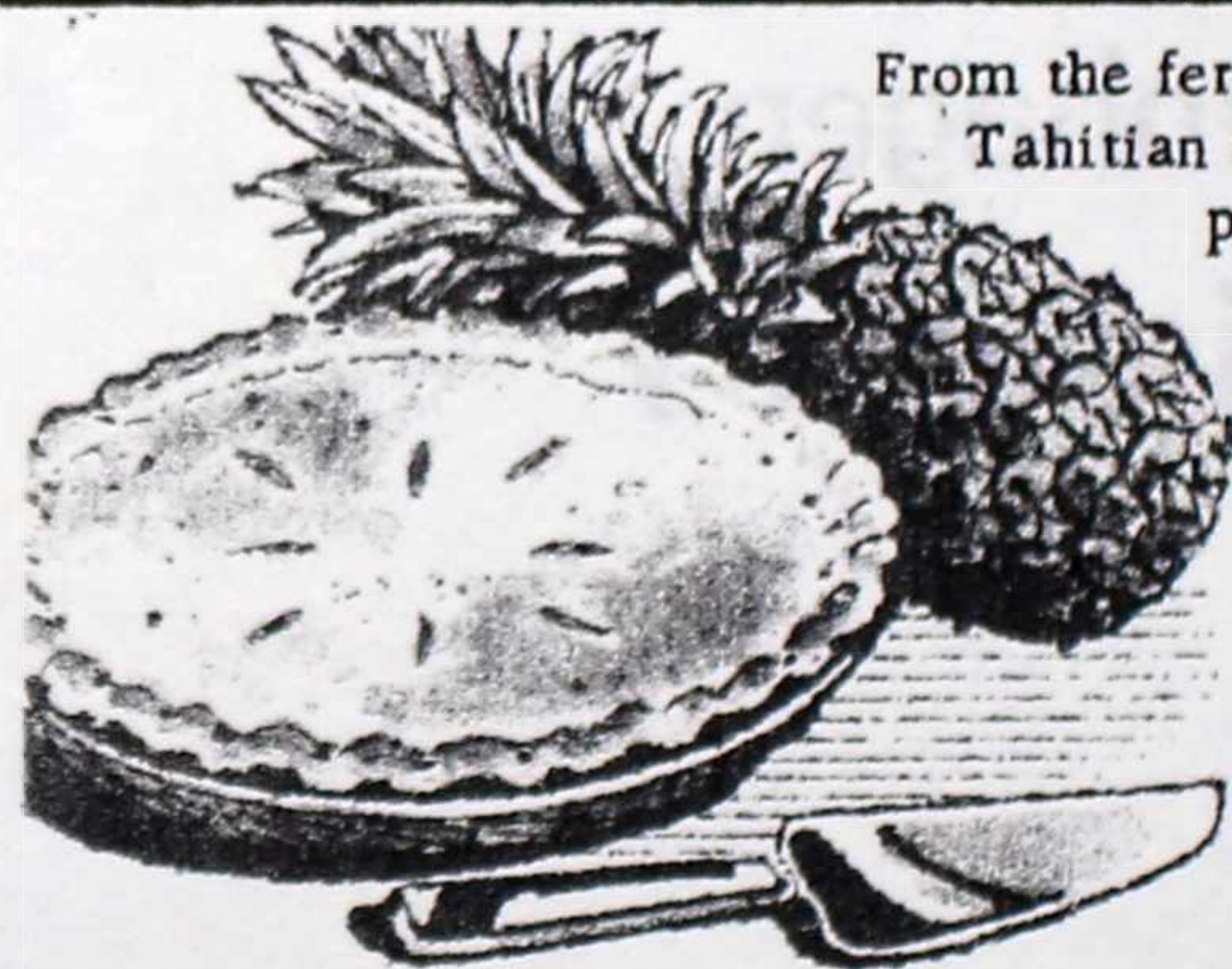
OATS
MILLET
MAPLE BUTTER
TVP CHICKEN, HAM
BEEF, ETC. # YEAST PRO-
TEIN BARS # NATURAL FOOD
SNACKS AND SWEETS # MUSCAT-
EL RAISINS # BRAZIL NUTS # ALMONDS
MACADAMIA NUTS # PEITAS # WHOLEMEAL
FLOUR # WHEATGERM & HONEY TOFFEE # SUN -
FLOWER SEEDS # FRESH MUNG BEAN SPROUTS, AL-
FALE SPROUTS, WHEAT SPROUTS, BAMBOO
SPROUTS AND LENTIL SPROUTS TO MAKE
WONDERFUL SALADS # HEALTH AND
NUTRITION BOOKS & GUIDES
BODY BRUSHES # SPICES &
OILS # GLUCOSE TAB-
LETS # GOOD FRA-
GRANCES #
& LOTS
ELSE

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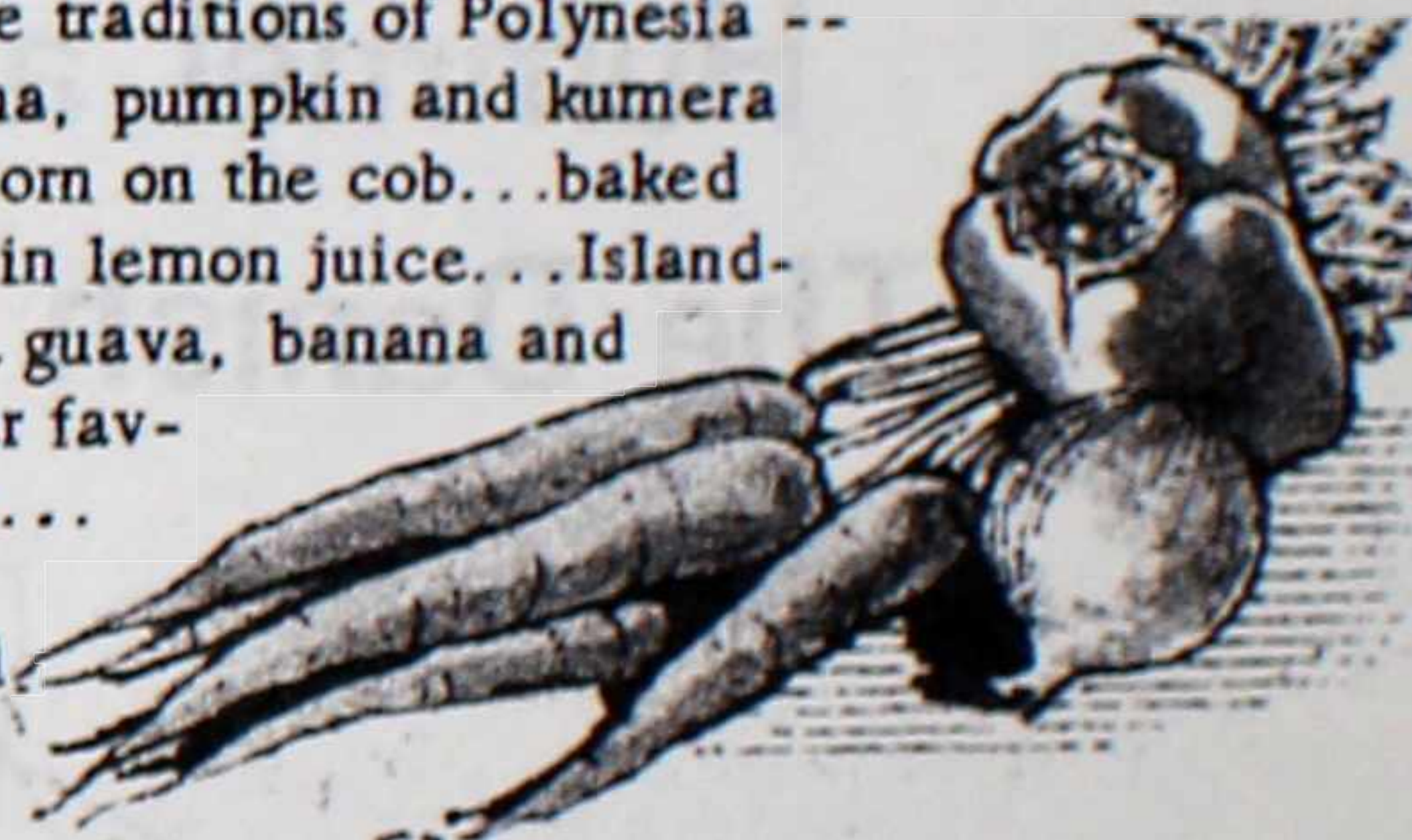


ISLAND HAND- BOOK

Norfolk calendar • best shopping
Island map • open & closing times



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pilhi... taro... fresh green beans... corn on the cob... baked
pumpkin and kumera... roast pork in lemon juice... Island-
style pot roast... baked chicken... guava, banana and
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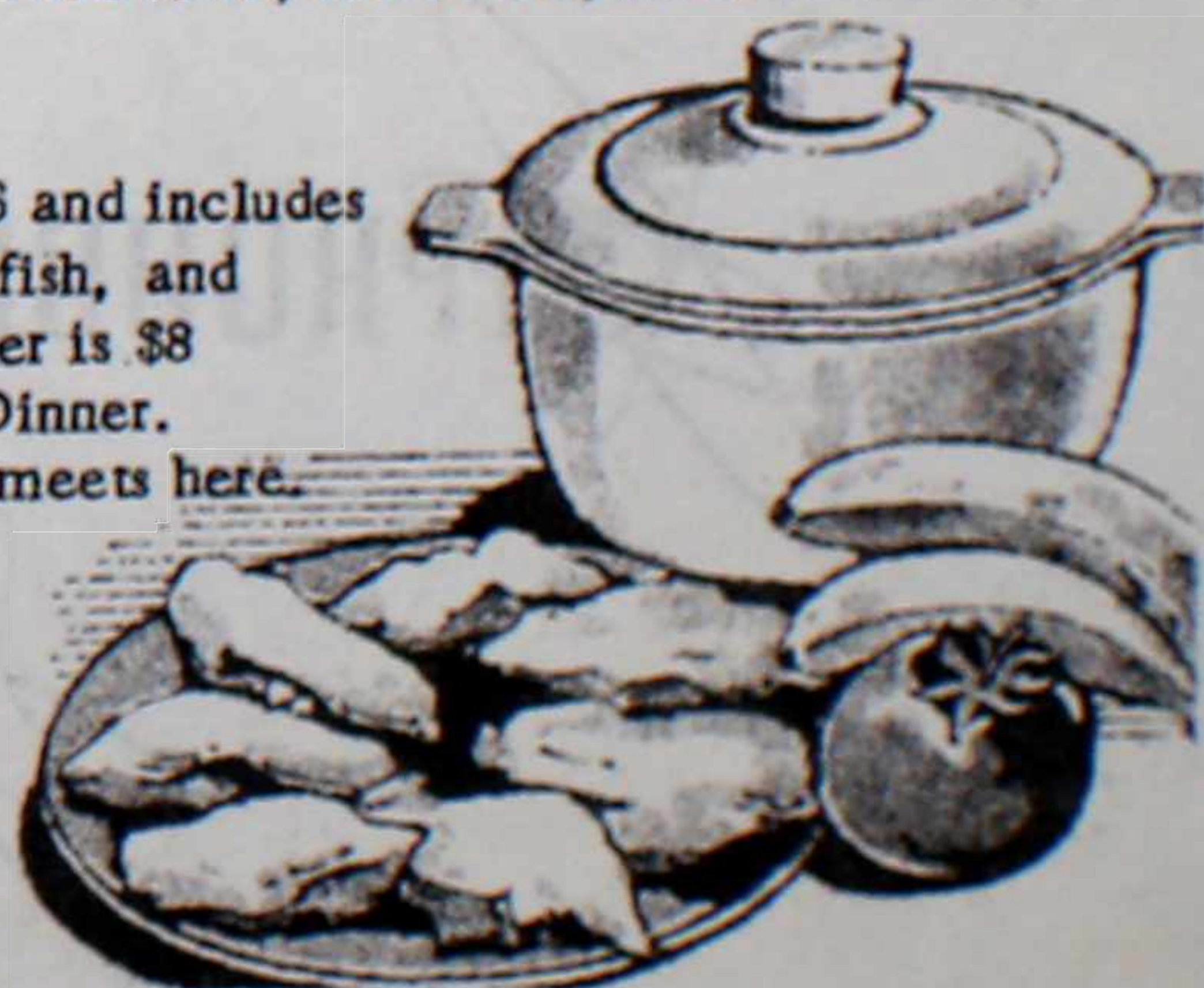
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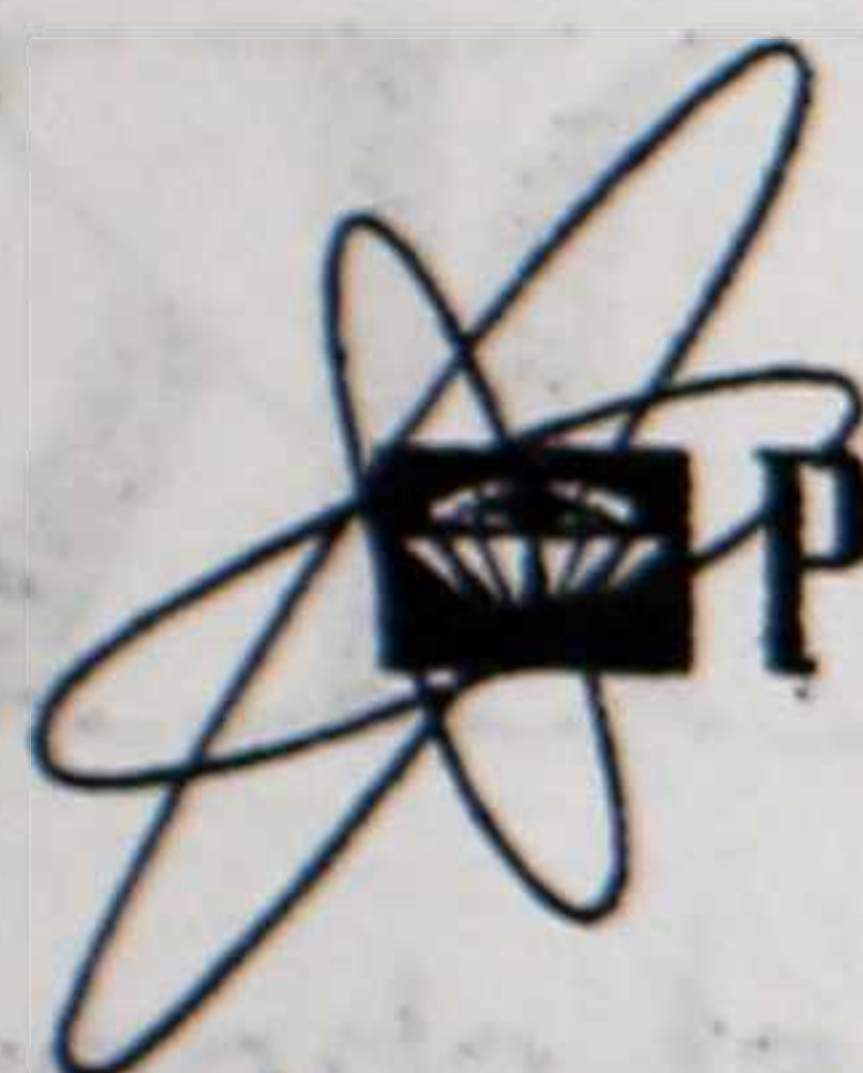
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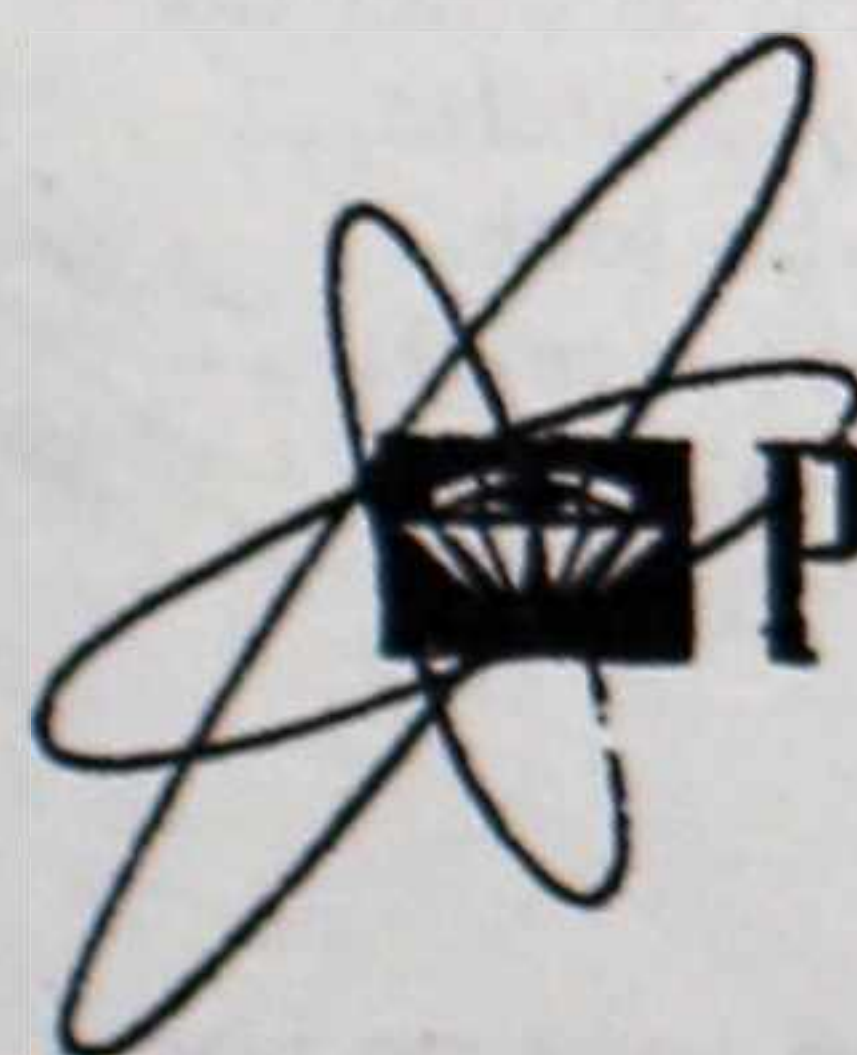
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- WOOD & IVORY carvings and other souvenirs

Continue along Taylor's road toward Kingston, and 150 yards past Queen Elizabeth Avenue you will find us. Directly opposite Nimpex. Phone 2181

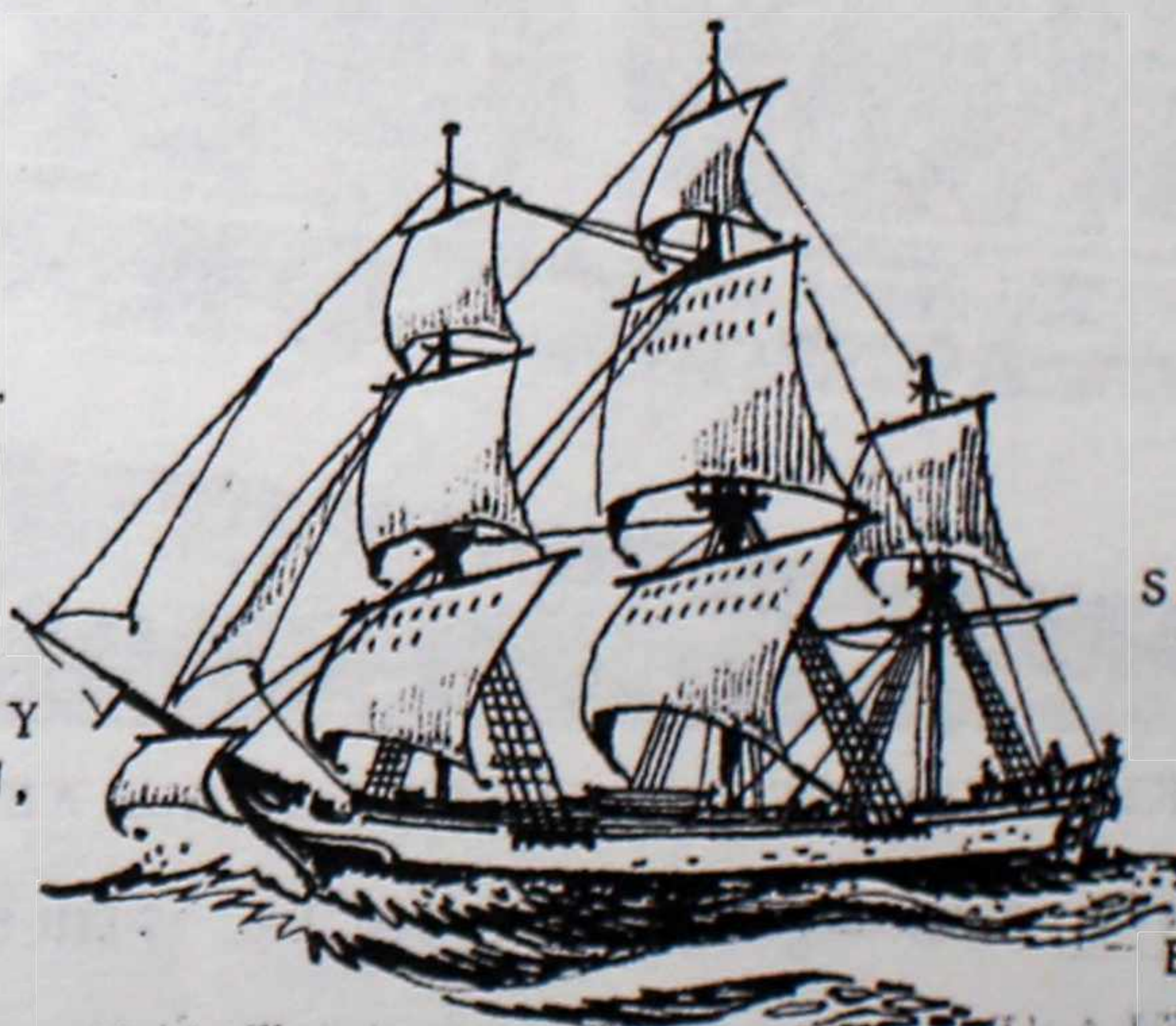
HOURS

POST OFFICE: 9am - 12.30pm and 1.15pm - 5pm, Monday - Friday.
TELEPHONES: Local phones operate automatically, 24 hours. Overseas calls can be made at the OTC building in New Cascade Rd.: 9am-9pm Monday - Friday, 10am - 6pm Sat., 10am-12.00 and 3pm-6pm Sunday. Charge for 3 minutes: Sydney \$3.75, Auckland \$4.68. There are only two radio circuits and sometimes delays occur. Calls can be booked in advance for a particular time.
TELEGRAMS: Monday - Friday 9am-6pm; Saturday 9am - 2.30pm; Sunday 9am - 2pm. Charge 5¢ a word.
BOND STORE: (at Kingston) 10am-1pm and 2pm - 4pm, Mon-Friday. Branch store at the airport is open for passengers only at arrival and departure time, seven days a week.
DOCTOR: (at N.I. Hospital). By appointment Mon-Fri. Emergencies, telephone 2091 or 2092.
DENTIST: (also at N.I. Hospital). By appointment, Mon-Fri. Telephone 2091 or 2092.
HOSPITAL VISITING HOURS: 11-12, 2-4 and 7-8.30 daily.
BANKS: 10am-3pm Mon-Thurs, open

to 5pm Fri.
LIBRARY: Monday 10-1 and 4-6; Wednesday 10-1; Friday 1-4.
STAMPS: At P.O. or at Island Shop several doors east. For back issues of Norfolk Island stamps, get in touch with Tom Grimshaw, on the Island.
ADMIN: Mon-Fri 9-1 and 1.45-5pm. Accounts, registrar, 10-1 and 1.45-4.
SHOPPING HOURS IN BURNT PINE: generally 9am-12.30, and 2pm-5.30. Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons almost all shops are closed. A fair number are open Sunday mornings, but not all.
AFTER-HOURS SHOPPING: Trading Post 7.30-9pm Mon-Sat and 9am-7pm Sun; Burns Philp (Middlegate store) 8.30am-8.30pm Mon-Sat, 10am-7pm Sun.
TOURIST BUREAU: (Centre of Burnt Pine) 9-12 and 2-4 Mon-Fri but closed Wed afternoon; 9-12 Sat.
EAST-WEST/AIR N.Z.: Burnt Pine office open 9-5 weekdays, 9-12.30 Wed-Sat.
PETROL STATIONS: There are two. Norfolk Island Motors, at the eastern edge of Burnt Pine, is open 8am-6pm every day but Sunday. Central Service Station, at the western edge of Burnt Pine, is open 8.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-1.30pm Sat, 9-12 Sun. Nights and Sunday afternoons you're out of luck.

**"Eat Thy Bread With Joy and
 Drink Thy Wine with Merry Hearts"**

SOFT LIGHTS
 AND PLEASANT
 MUSIC ARE
 PART OF THE
 ENJOYABLE
 ATMOSPHERE
 OF THE BOUNTY
 LODGE TAVERN,
 NORFOLK'S
 LEADING
 LICENSED
 RESTAURANT.
 ENJOY CHOOSING
 FROM OUR FINE



A LA CARTE
 MENU -- AND
 ENJOY OUR
 ATTENTIVE
 SERVICE AT THE
 COCKTAIL BAR
 AND AT YOUR
 TABLE.
 YOUR EVENING
 "ABOARD THE
 BOUNTY" WITH
 US WILL BE
 COMPLETE AND
 MEMORABLE.

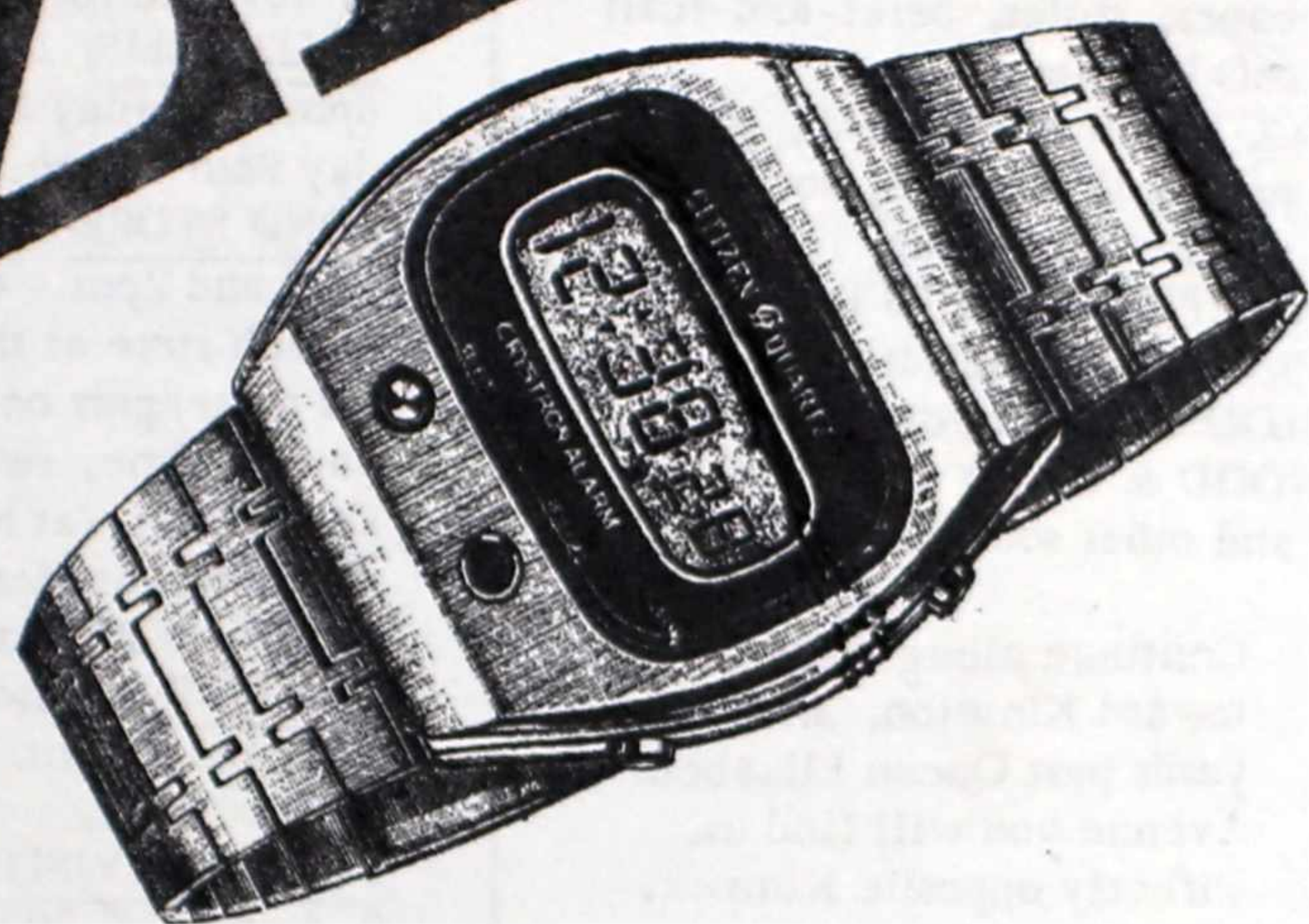
BOUNTY LODGE TAVERN

OPEN TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY FROM 7PM. TELEPHONE 2019

PRENTICE'S THE DIGITAL WATCH CENTRE

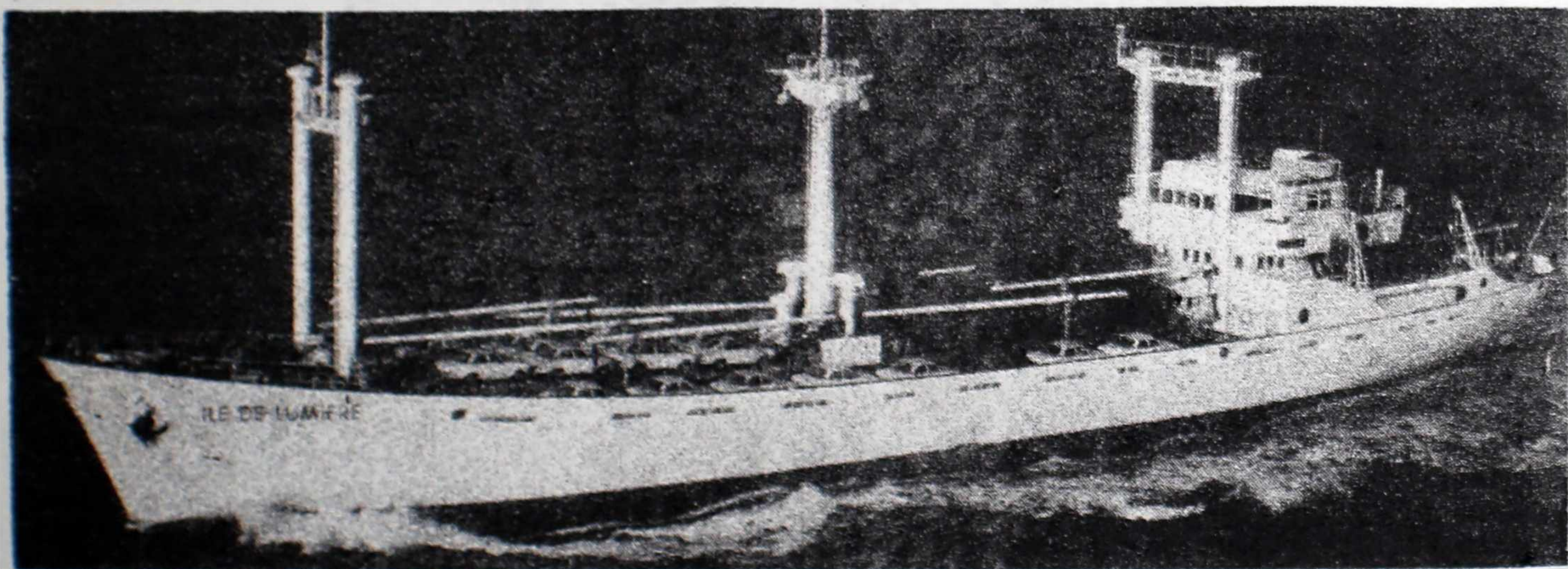
AS MUCH AS 2/3 OFF
SYDNEY PRICES !:
SUPERB WATCHES FOR MEN, WOMEN,
BOYS AND GIRLS, AS LOW AS \$23
WE HAVE A TREMENDOUS RANGE - QUARTZ
DIVERS WATCHES, DUAL-TIME CHRONOGRAPHS,
ALARM WATCHES, SOLAR-POWERED WATCHES, ETC.
CITIZEN'S WORLD WIDE GUARANTEE APPLIES - THERE
ARE OVER TWO THOUSAND DEALERS IN AUSTRALIA ALONE.

CITIZEN



COMPAGNIE DES CHARGEURS CALEDONIENS

S.A. 37.890.000 CFP/Registered Office NOUMEA/R.C. no. 69 B 2903



OPERATING A FOUR-WEEKLY SERVICE from SYDNEY and from AUCKLAND/TAURONGA

C.C.C. AGENTS IN SYDNEY: Hetherington Kingsbury Pty. Ltd, 37 Pitt St., Tel. 27.1671

C.C.C. AGENTS IN AUCKLAND: Sofrane Unilines, 42 Customs Street, Tel. 73279

C.C.C. AGENTS IN NORFOLK ISLAND:

South Pacific Shipping Company (N.I.) Limited

Telephone 2131 (Ken or Enid) 2018 (Geoff)

IT'S A PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO;

NORFOLK ISLAND

Here are a few of the many things to see on the island. Enjoy them during the day; you can shop late at the Trading Post

1 AIRPORT TERMINAL and Air Cargo office

2 SHOPPING CENTRE, Post Office, Banks, Tourist Board

3 ISLAND ADMINISTRATION ; Bond Store for spirits

4 CEMETERY -- touching inscriptions on old headstones

5 BLOODY BRIDGE, site of one of Norfolk's legends

6 NORFOLK ISLAND GOLF CLUB -- visitors welcome

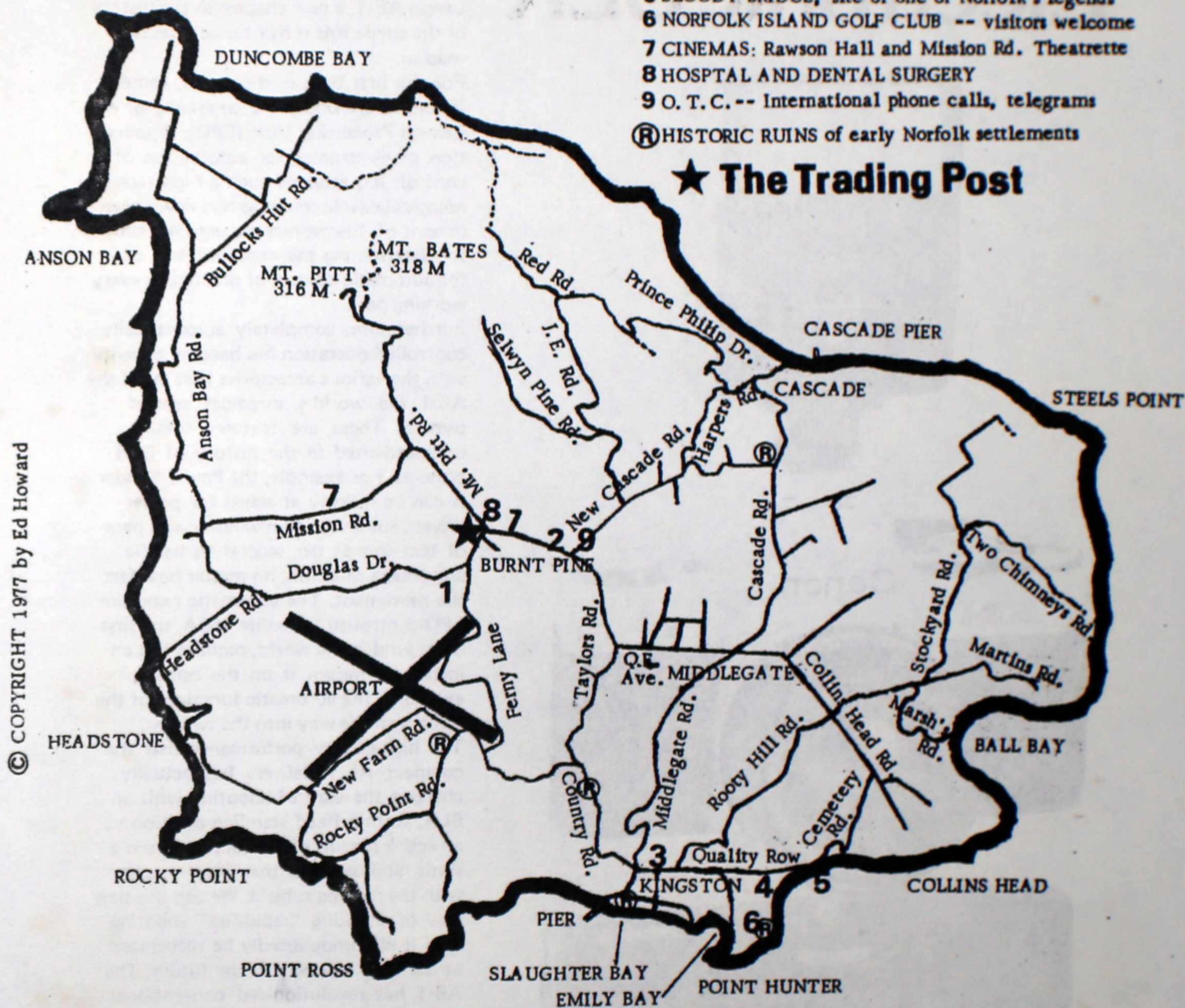
7 CINEMAS: Rawson Hall and Mission Rd. Theatre

8 HOSPITAL AND DENTAL SURGERY

9 O. T. C. -- International phone calls, telegrams

Ⓡ HISTORIC RUINS of early Norfolk settlements

★ **The Trading Post**



All roads lead to the complete holiday mini-mart —

THE TRADING POST

"THE FIRST SHOP YOU COME TO AFTER LANDING AT THE AIRPORT"

OPEN 7 DAYS — 7.30 am to 9 pm

(Except Sundays, when we get lazy and are open only from 9 am to 7 pm -- sorry about that....)

We want to help you make the most of your time on Norfolk so we carry freshly-baked Norfolk Island bread...eggs...teas and coffees...a complete range of tinned foods...frozen meats, vegetables, fish, sweets, pastries and 'heat-n-serve' items...soft drinks...biscuits, crackers and savouries...ice cream...imported cheeses...lollipops...magazines...batteries...cigarettes...wrapping paper...personal and gift stationery...greeting cards...bug sprays...toothpaste and medicine cabinet items...novelties...mainland newspapers...tin openers...candles...first aid requirements...olives, pickles, nuts and condiments...picnic supplies...games...artists' requisites...gourmet foods...sliced luncheon meats...fresh fruits and vegies, when Norfolk has them...needles and cotton, and almost anything else you've forgotten, every day of the week, early & late.

The World's Premier Electronic SLR



The whole concept of an SLR camera will never be the same. With the debut of the Canon AE-1, a new chapter in the history of the single lens reflex camera has been written.

For the first time in the world, camera functions are under the command of a Central Processing Unit (CPU). Application of electronics for automation of controls has attained such a high technological development as had never been dreamt of. Electronics are used not only for determining the exposure, but also for automatic control of practically every working part.

Furthermore, completely automatically controlled operation has become a reality with the various accessories that make the AE-1 the world's foremost system camera. These are features totally unprecedented in the history of SLR cameras. For example, the Power Winder A can be quickly attached for power-driven, automatic film winding at a pace of two frames per second to handle any action situation, no matter how fast the movement. The automatic exposure CPU-controlled Speedlite 155A, the first of its kind in the world, requires but an instant to mount it on the camera, extending the automatic functions of the camera all the way into the twilight.

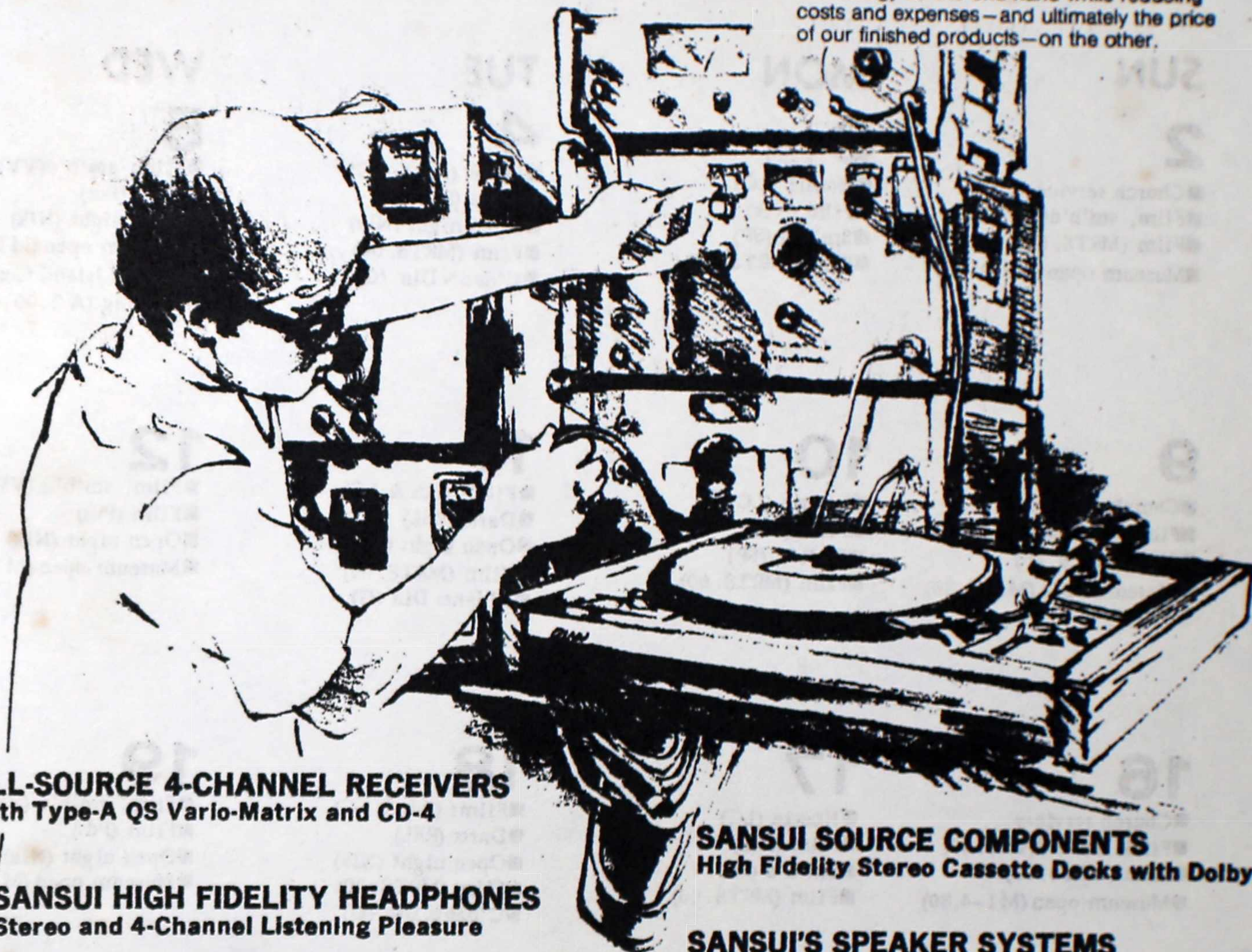
The high-quality performance that the compact AE-1 delivers has actually changed the way of shooting with an SLR, from a fixed standing position to an active pursuit of the subject. From a static approach to true involvement with the moving subject. We call this new way of shooting "rapid-fire" shooting. And it will undoubtedly be recognized as the only real way in the future. The AE-1 has revolutionized conventional photography. It has taken the lead by setting the newest trends in SLRs.

MILTONS

Norfolk's Complete Duty-Free Centre

SANSUI

This tradition of creative engineering in audio is one that we at Sansui are proud of, and try to maintain at all costs. In the matter of costs; however, it is in your interests as well as in ours that much of the original audio research done at Sansui these days is divided between improving audio and electronic technology on the one hand while reducing costs and expenses—and ultimately the price of our finished products—on the other.



ALL-SOURCE 4-CHANNEL RECEIVERS
With Type-A QS Varlo-Matrix and CD-4

SANSUI HIGH FIDELITY HEADPHONES
Stereo and 4-Channel Listening Pleasure

SANSUI SOURCE COMPONENTS
High Fidelity Stereo Cassette Decks with Dolby

SANSUI'S SPEAKER SYSTEMS
Extra-Large Woofers for Dynamic Realism

TOP QUALITY INTEGRATED STEREO AMPS & TUNER
Creatively Engineered Components for Professionals

SANSUI'S FINEST STEREO EQUIPMENT
BA/CA Power, Preamplifier and Integrated Amplifier.

MILTONS

Norfolk's Complete Duty-Free Centre

The Norfolk Island

SUN

2

- Church services
- Film, sm'b'd(VV7.30)
- Film (MRT8.00)
- Museum open (M1-4.30)

MON

3

- Housie (LC)
- Film (Nlk)
- Sm'b'd (SP)
- Film (MRT8.00)

TUE

4

- Films (Pds & LC)
- Darts (RSL)
- Open night (Nlk)
- Film (MRT8.00)
- C'dants Din. (G)

WED

5

- Film, sm'b'd(VV)
- Film (Pds)
- Open night (Nlk)
- Museum open (M1-4.30)
- Norfolk Island Council meeting (A 2.00)-'

9

- Church services
- Film, sm'b'd(VV7.30)
- Film (MRT8.00)
- Museum open (M1-4.30)

10

- Housie (LC)
- Film (Nlk)
- Sm'b'd (SP)
- Film (MRT8.00)

11

- Films (Pds & LC)
- Darts (RSL)
- Open night (Nlk)
- Film (MRT8.00)
- C'dants Din (G)

12

- Film, sm'b'd (VV)
- Film (Pds)
- Open night (Nlk)
- Museum open (M1-4.30)

16

- Church services
- Film, sm'b'd(VV7.30)
- Film (MRT8.00)
- Museum open (M1-4.30)

17

- Housie (LC)
- Film (Nlk)
- Sm'b'd (SP)
- Film (MRT8.00)

18

- Films (Pds & LC)
- Darts (RSL)
- Open night (Nlk)
- Film (MRT8.00)
- C'dants Din (G)

19

- Film, sm'b'd (VV)
- Film (Pds)
- Open night (Nlk)
- Museum open (M1-4.30)

23

- Church services
- Film, sm'b'd(VV7.30)
- Film (MRT8.00)
- Museum open (M1-4.30)

24

- Housie (LC)
- Film (Nlk)
- Sm'b'd (SP)
- Film (MRT8.00)

25

HOLIDAY
Anzac Day

- Films (Pds & LC)
- Darts (RSL)
- Open night (Nlk)
- Film (MRT8.00)
- C'dants Din (G)

26

- Film, sm'b'd (VV)
- Film (Pds)
- Open night (Nlk)
- Museum open (M1-4.30)

30

- Church services
- Film, sm'b'd (VV7.30)
- Film (MRT8.00)

APRIL EVENTS IN THE HISTORY

THE MUTINY ON THE "BOUNTY" - On April 28th, 1789, members of the crew of the "Bounty" took charge of the ship and set Captain Bligh and 18 of his supporters adrift in a small boat. Most of the mutineers stayed in Tahiti; nine of them, along with 19 Tahitians, sailed to Pitcairn Island - the ancestors of today's Norfolk Islanders.

THE ABANDONING OF NORFOLK - On April 10th, 1810, Captain Piper, the head of the "first settlement" on Norfolk, was recalled, and the settlement was soon abandoned. Norfolk was then uninhabited until 1825, when the

CALENDAR

APRIL

**THUR
6**

- Housie (LC)
- Sm'b'd (SP)
- Film (RSL8.00)
- Rotary (Nlk6.30)
- Film (MRT8.00)

**FRI
7**

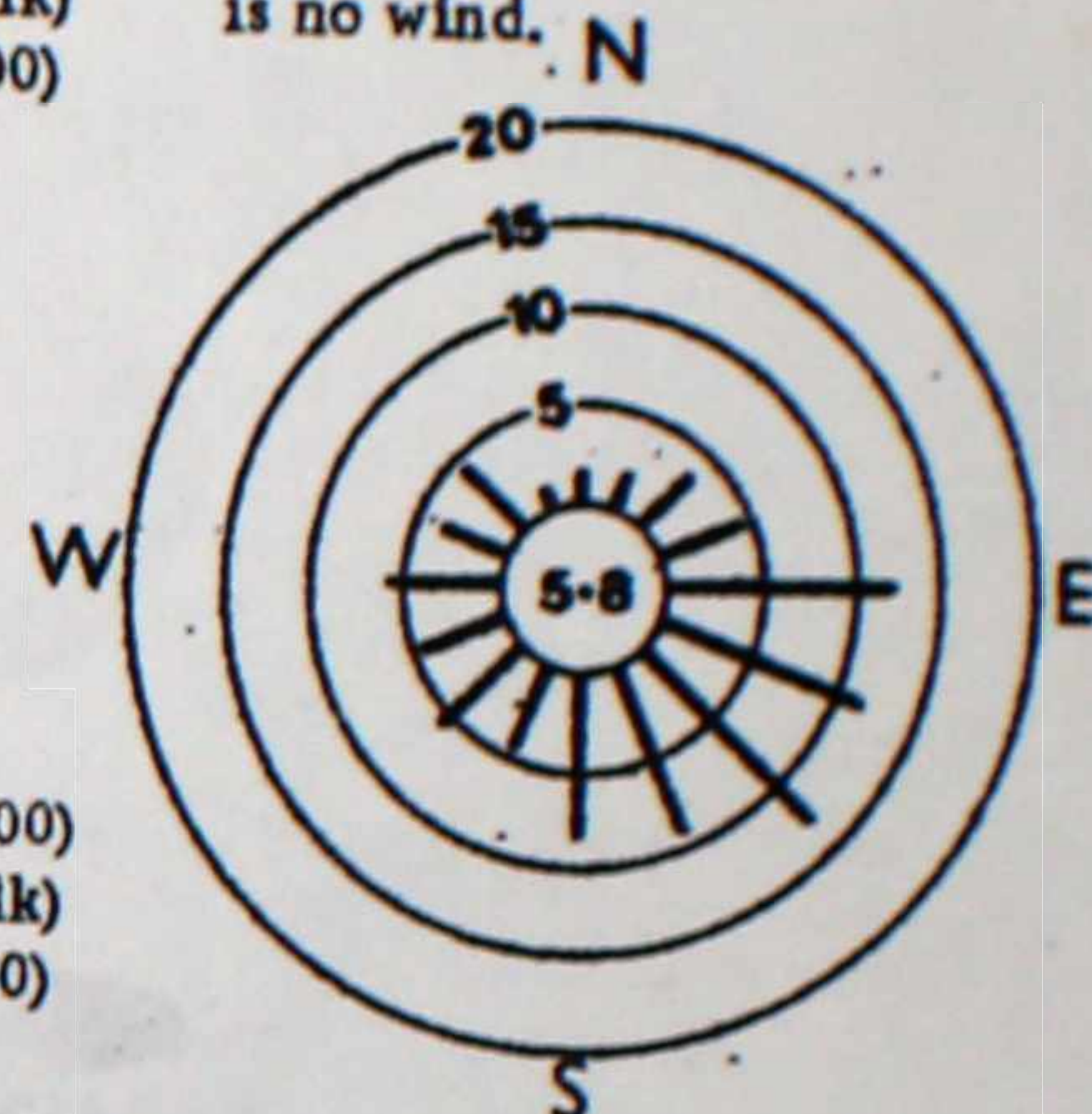
- Film (RSL8.00)
- Open night (Pds)
- Film (MRT8.00)

**SAT
8**

- SDA service
- Housie (RSL8.00)
- Open night (Nlk)
- Film (MRT8.00)

WIND ROSE

The length of each of the 16 lines shows the percentage of the time the wind blows from that direction this month. The figure in the centre shows what percentage of the time there is no wind.



13

- Housie (LC)
- Sm'b'd (SP)
- Film (RSL8.00)
- Rotary (Nlk6.30)
- Film (MRT8.00)

14

- Film (RSL8.00)
- Open night (Pds)
- Film (MRT8.00)

15

- SDA service
- Housie (RSL8.00)
- Open night (Nlk)
- Film (MRT8.00)

LOCATIONS

20

- Housie (LC)
- Sm'b'd (SP)
- Film (RSL8.00)
- Rotary (Nlk6.30)
- Film (MRT8.00)

21

- Film (RSL8.00)
- Open night (Pds)
- Film (MRT8.00)

22

- SDA service
- Housie (RSL8.00)
- Open night (Nlk)
- Film (MRT8.00)

- A - Admin. Bldg.
- BP - Burnt Pine
- BC - Bowling Club
- BCP - Bicentennial Park
- BH - Branka House
- C - Catholic Church
- CE - All Saints Church
- EB - Emily Bay
- G - Garrison Rest'r't
- GC - Golf Club
- H - Hospital
- KO - Kingston Oval
- Lib - Library
- LC - Leagues Club
- LK - Lime Kiln BBQ
- M - Museum Bldg.
- MC - Methodist Church
- MRT - Mission Rd. Talkies
- Nlk - Hotel Norfolk
- Pds - Paradise Hotel
- PH - Pitcairners Hall
- RH - Rawson Hall
- RSL - RSL Club
- Scl - School
- SDA - 7th Day Adv. Hall
- SP - South Pacific Hotel
- StB - St. Barnabas Chapel
- SW - Simon's Water
- VV - Valley View Rest'r't
- YC - Youth Centre

27

- Housie (LC)
- Sm'b'd (SP)
- Film (RSL8.00)
- Rotary (Nlk6.30)
- Film (MRT8.00)

28

- Film (RSL8.00)
- Open night (Pds)
- Film (MRT8.00)

29

- SDA service
- Housie (RSL8.00)
- Open night (Nlk)
- Film (MRT8.00)

OF NORFOLK AND THE PITCAIRNERS

brutal "second settlement" prison colony was established.

THE OFFERING OF NORFOLK TO THE PITCAIRNERS - On April 22nd, 1856,

Acting Lt. Gregorie on behalf of the British Government met with the Pitcairners in the schoolhouse on Pitcairn and described the terms and conditions Governor Denison had authorised him to carry out if the people agreed to move to Norfolk Island. All of Norfolk was to be owned by them, individually or in common, and they were to continue being self-governing, with Gov. Denison acting as a nominal link between them and the Crown.

AGFA'S DISTRIBUTORS
ON NORFOLK ARE

CAMERALINES



AGFA-GEVAERT

Finally.
All three exposure modes in
one compact package.



Finally. All three exposure modes in one compact package.

Aperture Priority. Shutter Speed Priority. Fully-Metered Manual.

Minolta proudly presents the greatest camera advance in years. The world's first "Multi-Mode" 35mm SLR camera. The Minolta XD-7. It's a light, compact 35mm camera that is so precise, it will even correct exposure errors you might miss. And it has ended a decade-long camera dilemma.

Until today, you were limited to one automatic exposure mode. Either aperture priority or shutter speed priority. Now this camera, a truly remarkable camera engineering feat, gives you both. Plus, fully-metered manual as well. You get electronically automatic ease in the mode that's best for each individual shot. Plus, a small cameraful of other Minolta advances.

Multi-Mode Exposure System

Here is the essence of our photographic breakthrough: This entirely new breed of camera is the first 35mm SLR that is dual automatic. What this means, simply, is that you can select aperture or shutter speed priority automation—whichever serves your needs best. Aperture priority lets you blur the background or foreground to highlight a lovely lady.

Just select the f-stop you want to control the depth of field of your photographs. The camera automatically chooses the proper shutter speed from 1 to 1/1000 sec. Shutter speed priority lets you select the shutter speed you want to control motion and give a surfer his endless summer. Our advanced electronics automatically select the precise aperture for proper exposure. Manual mode lets you control the creativity yourself to mirror creation.

Automatic Exposure Correction

Camera experts have acclaimed our Multi-Mode breakthrough is reason

enough to place this camera at the pinnacle of SLR sophistication. But we didn't stop there. The Minolta XD-7 incorporates many more advances such as our automatic exposure correction feature. In shutter speed priority mode the XD-7 gives you an LED warning signal if the lighting conditions change beyond the limits of the aperture at the shutter speed selected. If you don't adjust the shutter speed for proper exposure, the XD-7 will do it for you. It's that automatic and foolproof.

Total Information Viewfinder

We've thought of everything so you don't have to. Our vastly improved viewfinder puts all the information, in any mode, right before your eye by means of LED display. And our newly developed "Acute-Matte" focusing screen technology enables bright, clear viewing, corner to corner.

Auto Winder/Synchronized Electronic Flash

The exciting XD-7 system includes our compact Auto Winder D which was designed exclusively for the camera and lets you shoot up to two frames per second. Our Auto Electroflash 200X automatically sets the camera's shutter speed to 1/100 second and synchronizes with the winder for continuous flash photos.

The Minolta XD-7. Here is totally new camera technology which is destined to change the shape of camera thinking to come. For never before has so much been so beautifully designed into such as easy handling, reliably functional package. But don't take our word for it alone. Put this new breed of camera to your mind's eye.

The Multi-Mode **MINOLTA XD-7**

The choice is yours.

Come to **CAMERALINES**

THE ISLAND'S ONLY COMPLETE PHOTOGRAPHIC STORE

NORFOLK RADIO

TRANSMISSION STARTS WITH BREAKFAST SHOW BEGINNING 7AM EVERY DAY BUT SUNDAY

AUSTRALIAN NEWS REPORTS 7.30, 8.00, 12.30, 1.00, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00, 3.30, 8.30
NORFOLK ISLAND LOCAL NEWS NOTICES 7.40, 8.40, 10.00, 12.00, 1.05

MONDAY

9.15 My Word
10.05 Concert half-hour
10.45 Morning serial
11.00 Bing Crosby story
12.05 Book Reviews
1.30 Radio Australia relay
7.30 BBC Rock Line
8.00 News, C&W Show
8.30 Top Pops
9.00 News
9.15 Feature Artist Special
10.00 Live Concert

TUESDAY

9.15 Melody Time
10.05 Music from Shows & Films
10.30 Hospital Programme
10.45 Morning Serial
11.00 Notes from the Past
12.05 Ticker, Tape & Phone
1.30 Methodist Programme
2.00 Radio Australia relay

7.05 Children's Story
7.30 Sentimental Journey
(Jazz Programme)
8.00 Bing Crosby story
9.30 Jazz Piano
10.30 Close
WEDNESDAY
9.15 Home to Roost
10.05 Morning Serial
11.00 Light Music from
the Netherlands
12.05 World Affairs
1.30 Radio Australia relay
2.00 (First Wed. of Mth.
only) N.I. Council Mtg.

4.00 Linda & Dilly
Tots to Teens
7.00 Pick of the Week
Prog. includes Comedy
Drama, Book Reviews

THURSDAY

9.15 World of Books
10.05 Much Less a Slave
10.45 Morning Serial

11.00 Requests
12.05 World Affairs Prog.
1.30 S.D.A. Prog.
2.00 Radio Australia relay
7.00 (First Thurs. in Mth.
only) Council Re-brdcast.
7.05 An Evening of
Entertainment

FRIDAY

9.15 Comedy Show
10.05 BBC Rock Line (Music)
10.45 Morning Serial
11.00 Elton John Story
12.05 Science/Sports
1.30 Church of Eng. Prog.
2.00 Radio Australia relay

7.00 Programme Surround-
ed by Fine Music

SATURDAY

10.00 Mainly Pop
10.30 Aust. & local news

11.00 Top of Pops
11.30 The Goons
12.00 Local news
12.25 Swop Shop
1.00 Radio Aust. relay
5.00 Young Mood

7.05 Comedy
7.30 Movin' Music
9.00 Dr. Findlay's Case Book
9.45 The Paramor Sound
10.30 Close

SUNDAY

12.30 Radio Australia relay
4.30 Vibes to do it by
6.30 Wilfred Thomas Show
7.00 Sunday Radio,
drama, music etc.

THE DOCUMENTS

"Reproductions of the Eleven Basic Documents of the Pitcairn Settlers' Rights to Norfolk Island" is a 16-page leaflet containing copies from official files of the letters and orders that made Norfolk a separate colony, to be wholly

owned by the Pitcairners. "The authorities" have always said the Pitcairners' claims were nonsense. The documents say differently. \$1 at Burns Philp, the Trading Post, Jensen's and Norfolk Souvenirs. By air to Aust., \$1 to box 94.

THE ISLAND'S NEWEST HOTEL - IN A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN SETTING

HILLCREST Hotel

Cocktail
Bar and

RESTAURANT

WINE

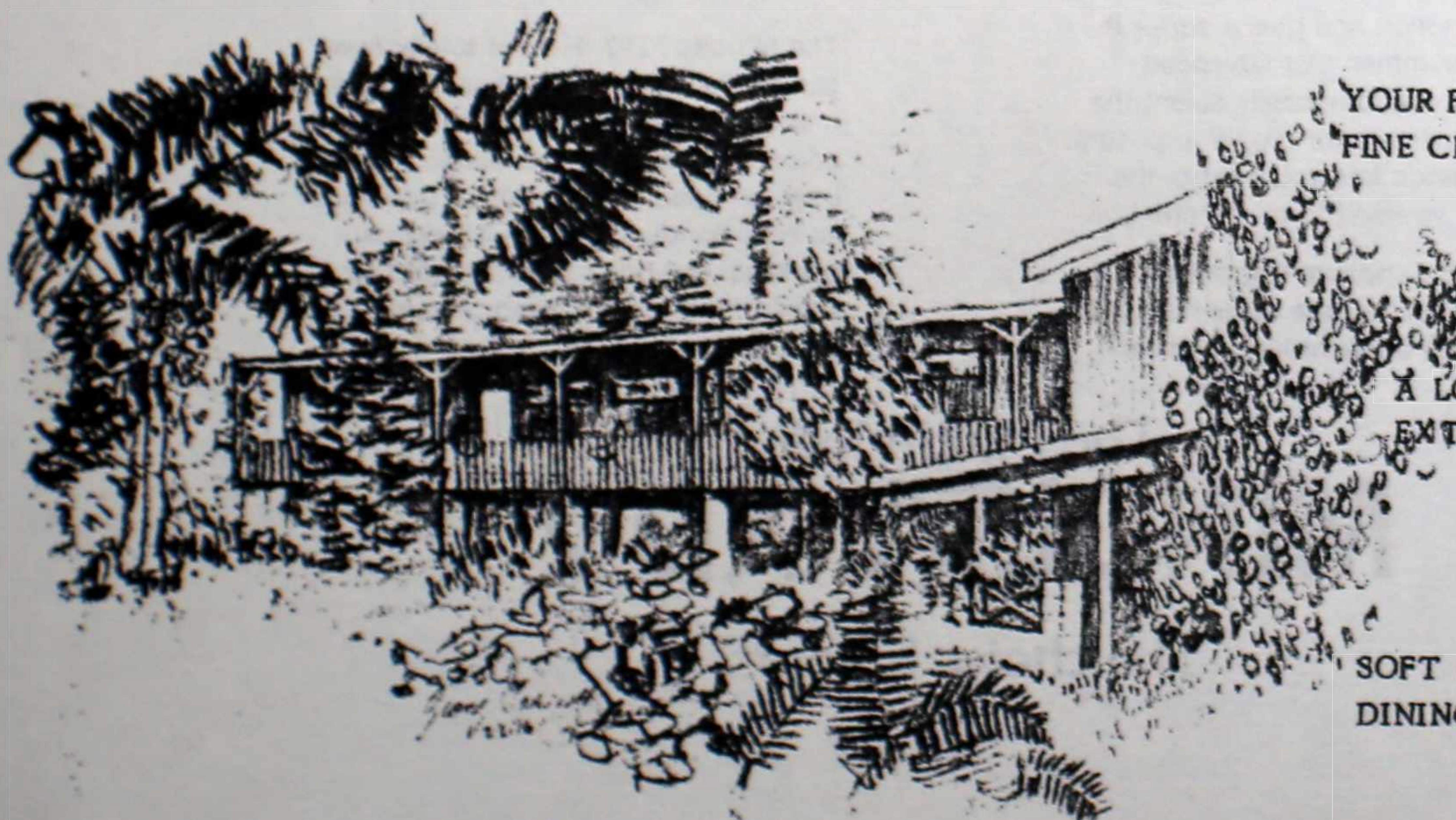
YOUR FAVOURITE COCKTAILS
FINE CELLAR OF IMPORTED WINES

DINE

A LOVELY DINING ROOM
EXTENSIVE A LA CARTE MENU

DANCE

SOFT STEREO MUSIC FOR YOUR
DINING AND DANCING PLEASURE



OPEN EVERY NIGHT BUT THURSDAYS PLEASE RING 2255 FOR BOOKING
Eddie Lloyd, Manager

SAME-DAY NEWSPAPERS
late in the day Wed
-Thurs-Fri-Sat-Sun

AUSTRALIAN
National Times
Sunday Telegraph

Sun-Herald
FINANCIAL
REVIEW

Courier-Mail
New Zealand
Herald

8 o'clock
SUNDAY NEWS
Womens Weekly
CLEO
GOLDEN BOOKS

PAPERBACK BOOKS
GREETING CARDS
PERSONAL STATIONERY
GIFT STATIONERY
GIFT WRAPPINGS
ACCOUNTING FORMS
ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS

NORFOLK ISLAND
STATIONERS
at the
TRADING
POST

ABC+ABC+ABC+ABC+ABC+ABC+ABC+ABC+ABC+ABC+ABC+ABC+ABC
A. B. C. HOBBY CENTRE
(OPPOSITE SOUTH PACIFIC HOTEL)

for
Calculators
Radios & Cassettes
(leading brands)
Model Aircraft
Model Railway
Watches
Construction Kits
Inspection
Welcomed!

ROLEX



Point'n Shoot.™
Only by Vivitar.

FROM \$39.95

From the beginning, the Vivitar name has been a mark of highest quality.
In photographic lenses. Filters. And electronic flash equipment.
In fact, there are probably more Vivitar lenses and flash equipment being sold today for precision cameras than any other name.
And now, you'll find the same Vivitar quality and commitment to excellence built into every Point'nShoot camera.

MILTONS **NORFOLK'S COMPLETE DUTY FREE CENTRE**

jewellery and
green jade statuettes
direct from Peking



diamonds, rubies,
emeralds, sapphires
opals

and amber from the Baltic Sea

ONLY DIRECT IMPORTS



CASA



KUI

Prop. Meta Kienhuize

Taylor's Rd. - The Exclusive Shopping Centre

NOW ON DISPLAY -- AN ELEGANT SELECTION OF GOLD CHARM BRACELETS AND CHARMS

BEST BUYS

YOU'LL FIND YOUR OWN "Best Buys" depending on your own needs and purse, but The News asked some of the Island's leading importers to pick a few items they believe are particularly good value at the moment. Here's what they told us:

International Duty-Free: "A new shipment of dolls, from only \$4.75. One of them, Poppet, walks and talks for just \$17.95. We also have the famous Playdough, which kids like - the construction kit is only \$3.50."

Miltons: "Special camera prices include the new Nikon FM SLR, with 50mm lens, for \$399.95 - and the Eumig super 8 sound movie projector at \$225 and up."

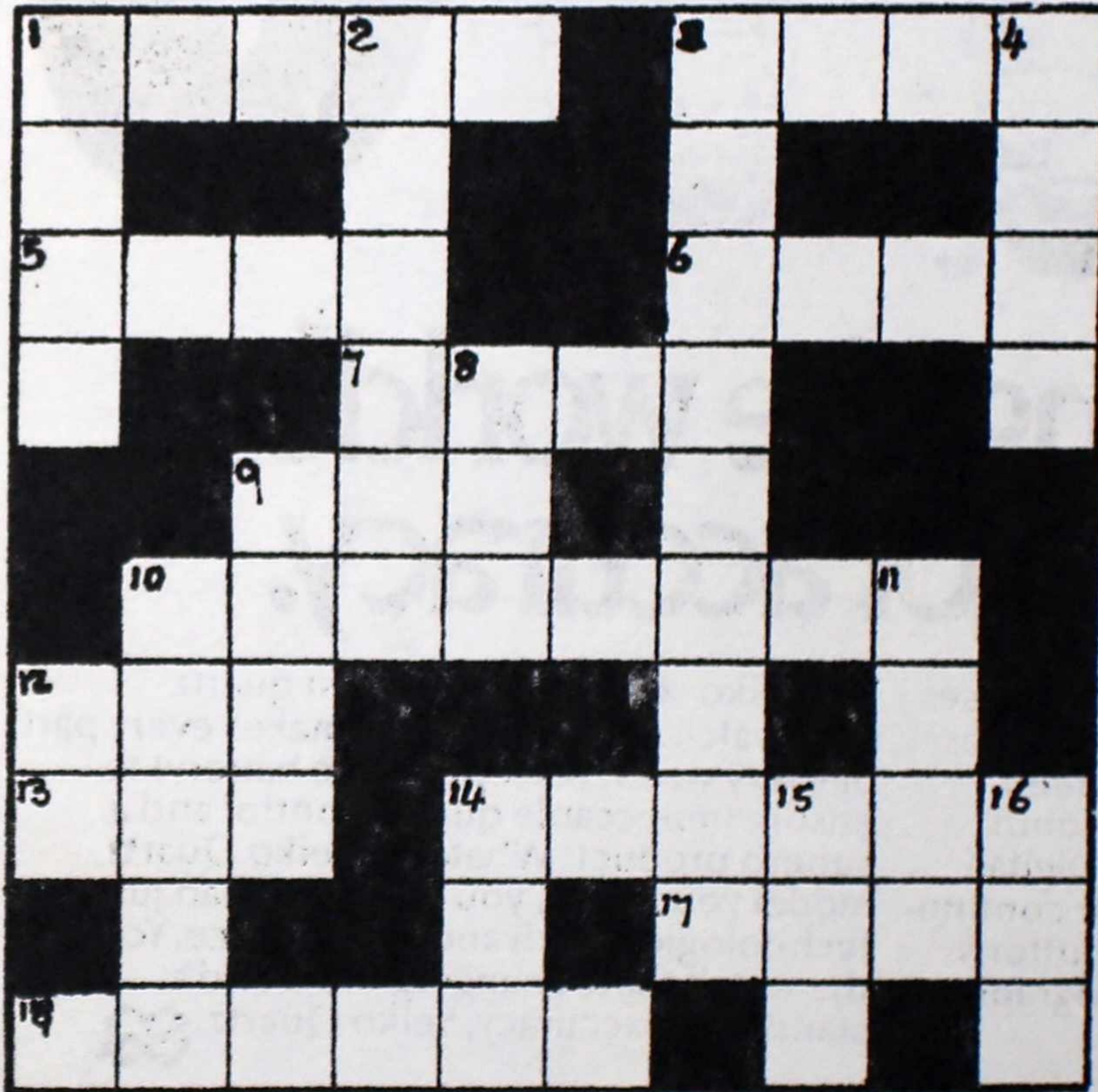
Proud's: "Omega watches".

Casa Kui: "Our jewellery and other beautiful arts from China, because of our long-standing direct connections there."

Martin's Agencies: "Remington electric shavers and hot combs, on sale at good shops in Burnt Pine"

Cameralines: "A movie kit - Minolta Autopak 8-D6 camera and Chinon C-100 dual projector, at half the normal Norfolk price - \$133 instead of \$266. Only four of them - hurry."

The Trading Post: "We're the only place on the Island with same-day Australian & NZ newspapers, every evening, planes allowing."

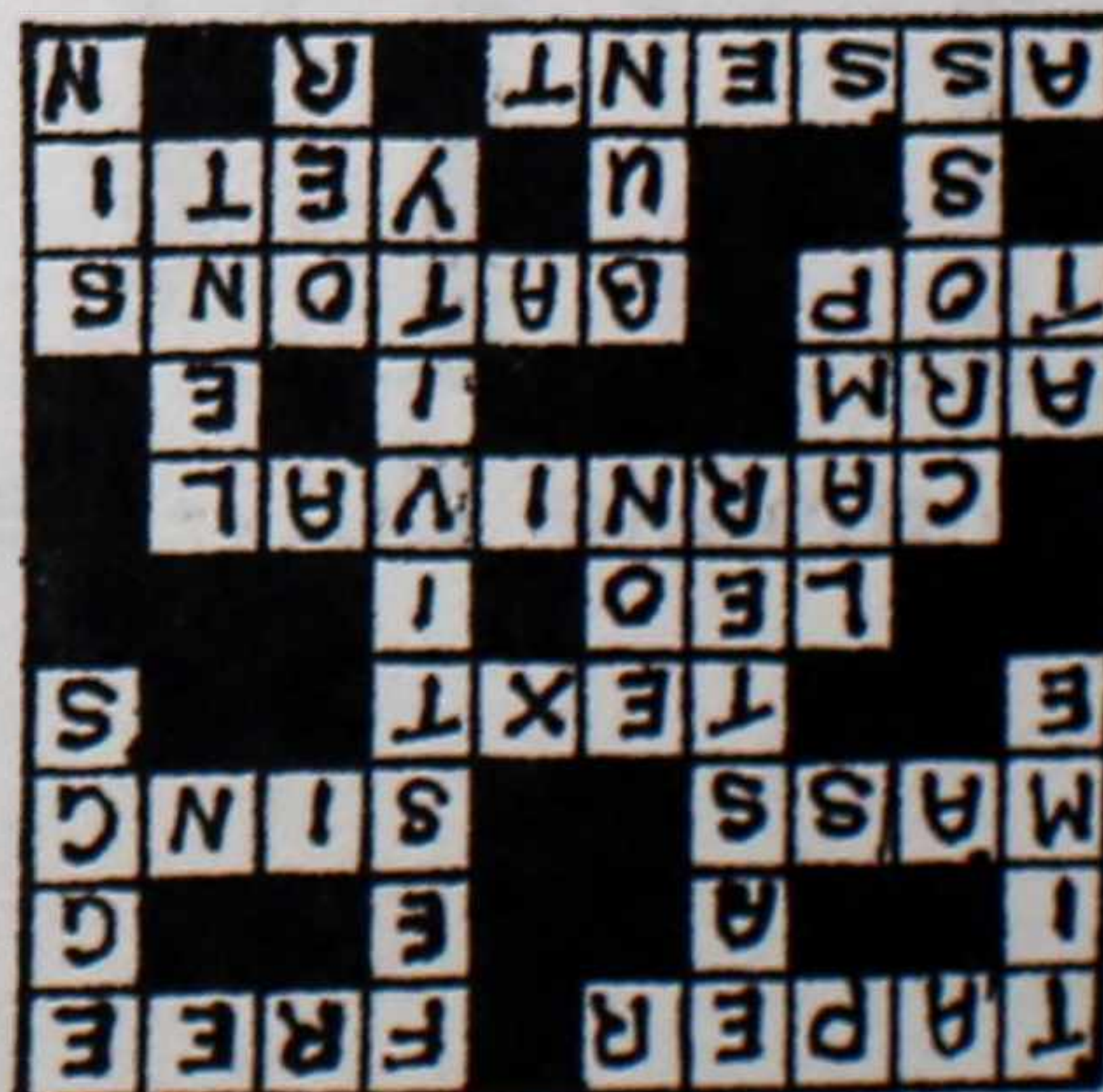


ACROSS

1. Candle lighter
3. Unbound
5. Communion
6. Give voice
7. Message
9. Zodiac sign
10. Revelry
12. Limb
13. Summit
14. Sticks
17. Legendary animal
18. Concurrence

DOWN

1. Period
2. Religious festival
3. Rejoicing
4. Easter gifts
8. Age
9. Lantern
10. Religious symbol
11. Time for self-denial
12. Direction
14. Easter force
15. Over
16. Misdeed



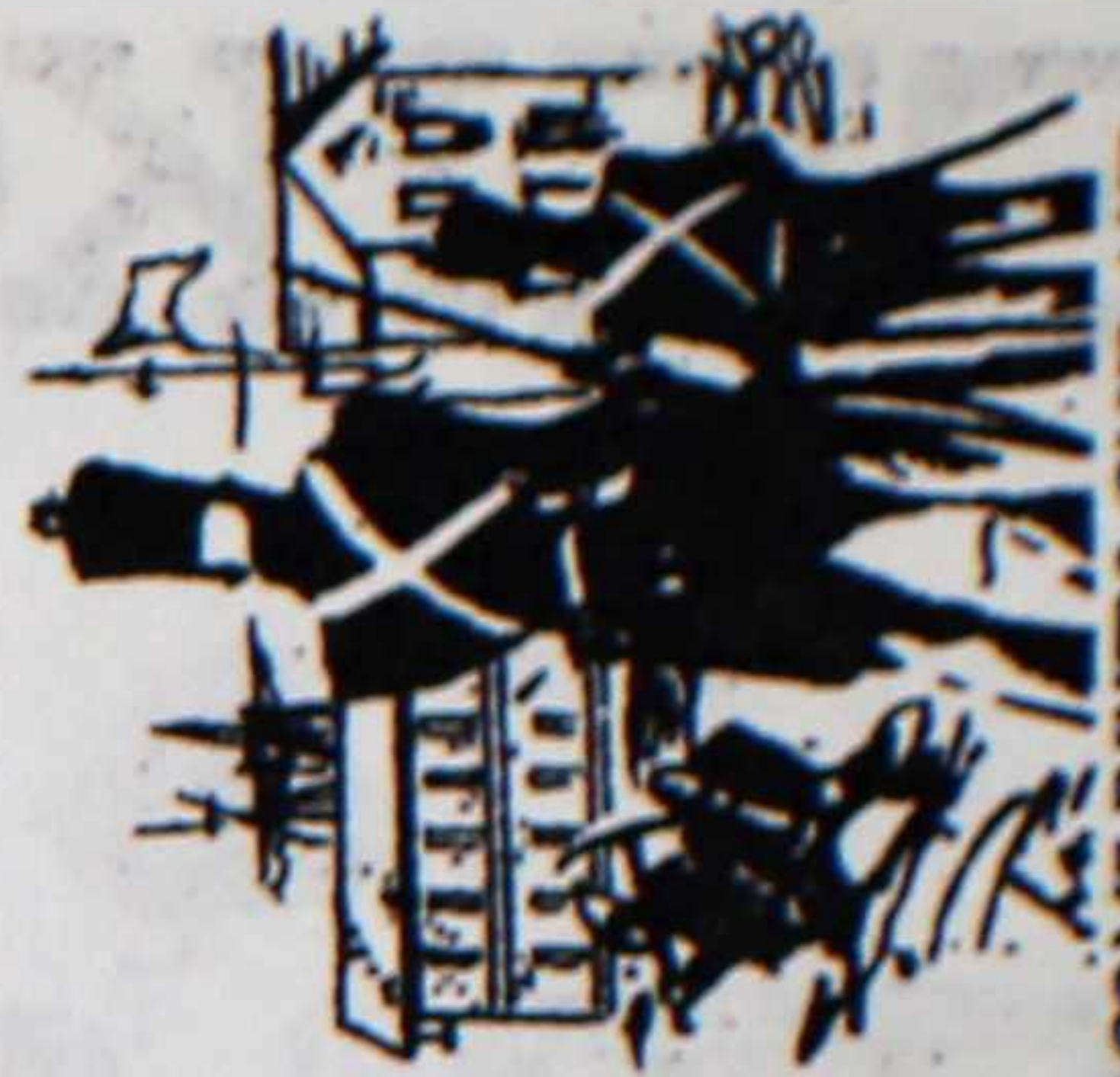
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raising and management has developed quite independently of Australia's. (It is worth noting here that while Norfolk Islanders contribute to their public revenue in a quite engaging way, they do not pay Australian taxes.)

5. Its indigeneous political system has expanded or contracted quite separately from Australia's, usually in response to each of the inquiries referred to above. But the polity has always been strictly though benignly constrained by politicians and/or bureaucrats from another country, far away. This has severely limited the Norfolk Island community's capability to participate in what Australians, for instance, would regard as democratic self-government.

Norfolk Islanders have always been under autocratic rule (fortunately never the sort of oppressive or exploitive rule that came to characterise colonialism at its worst). They have never had direct parliamentary representation in England or in Australia. Currently they have less formal say in the day-to-day management of their public affairs than the modest municipal council in Australia. The Norfolk Island Council, though elected, is advisory only. The final say resides with the Administrator and/or his Minister in Canberra.

(It should be noted here that though Norfolk Island has a quite uneven history of association with its Administrator, nothing in this report can be properly construed to be a criticism of the present Administration, Mr. Desmond V. O'Leary. He generally appears to be well-regarded as responsive and correct in his handling of a difficult and unenviable post).

Against this background there is added significance in the January 18, 1978 action of the Norfolk Island Council in tabling for public comment a Draft Constitution (Appendix C), which seeks to formalise the Island's status as a self-governing Crown Colony of Australia with its own legislature, its own executive administration, its own courts, its own Bill of Rights and a clearly defined association with Australia.

It would appear that there is a strong support among a clear majority of the Norfolk Island people for such a relationship with Australia. This most clearly emerges from the gathering of "Solemn Declarations" from more than 70% of Norfolk Island electors in May, 1977. More than 65% of the population signed in favour of the Island remaining "a distinct and separate territory with its own system of laws, benefits and tax-

es". (See p. 39 of Appendix DII for a fuller analysis.)

However, there is a body of minority opinion on the Island which has reservations about this. It is appropriate that their views be noted. Their reservations are reflected generally in Mervyn Hoare's Canberra Times feature article of Tuesday December 20, 1977. (Appendix E). They might be summarised thus:

1. Social Security - Though there is an informal welfare system on Norfolk Island relying on cases of need being identified mainly by a visiting nursing service and the needs met through services and funds supplied by community service and charity groups and a Council weekly grant to needy individuals of \$25 a week, there is no statutory backing for this system. The minority group feels that the Australian social welfare system with its legislative backing is more preferable.

2. Self-Government - Given the more 'gentle' disposition of the Pitcairners, an Island government would, the minority believe, tend to be dominated by the more enterprising mercantile interests on the Island. These interests would be ready to introduce rapid change which would undermine, if not destroy, the most appealing quality of life currently enjoyed on the Island. The changes the minority fears most would flow from any re-establishment of Norfolk Island as a tax-haven, or some other sort of off-shore financial centre, with consequent growth of a commercial and service infrastructure and people to operate it.

It was this group, incidentally, which gathered 201 signatures in February 1977 on a petition to the Administrator expressing support in principle for the Nimmo Report and asking specifically for "all social and welfare benefits" provided by Australia to Australian mainland citizens. (See Appendix F).

What is significant in all of this is not the merits or otherwise of the majority and minority viewpoints, fears and concerns but the fact that Island opinion is not unanimous. Any process of consultation therefore needs to be handled sensitively as well as systematically and with a conscious climate of open-mindedness.

In this respect, the Nimmo Report is disappointingly flawed.

The Royal Commission relied on the usual and perhaps inadequate techniques of historical research, advertisement and announcements to gather submissions to yield the data on which to base its findings. While the historical research appears not to have

been superficial (though not complete, either), the gathering of important social data about the Islanders appears to have come from a gross sample of no more than 9% of the total population. Given the size of the Norfolk Island population, there cannot be much confidence placed in such data or the judgements made on it - especially as there seems to have been little attempt at establishing the representativeness of the sample, even in a statistical sense. In addition, efforts to weigh factors such as validity, accuracy, articulateness and willingness to be a source relied perhaps too heavily on judicial intuition.

It is notable that the Report admits that the Commission was unable to work its way through the feelings of what it chose to call the Island "factions" and draw from the data before it a "consensus" view about how the Islanders felt on their future. The Report also displays some signs of irritation about this inability, notably in comments like "this small, faction-riddled and confined community" being unable to evolve within itself generally-acceptable policies for its future (paragraph g, page 64) - a finding, incidentally, that is open to quite strong challenge.

Certainly it is fair criticism that the Royal Commission was unsystematic in the way it went about gathering data on the critical area of Islanders' values, attitudes, fears, concerns and desires about their future. Nor let it be said, is there much in the Report (though there may be in the transcripts) to enable the interested observer to build up a reliable picture of Norfolk Island as an economic entity or an ecological entity.

In other words there is a lack of adequate data provided by the Nimmo Report about important aspects of Norfolk Island as a polity. Such data does not seem to be readily available.

When the Island administration budgets for a deficit and in reality winds up with a surplus three or four times higher than the anticipated loss, it suggests there are bad gaps in the data on which the original estimates were based.

Similarly when the Islanders can dispute rather tellingly official data on Commonwealth Government expenditure on Norfolk Island supplied to the Royal Commission, it suggests gaps in the data available to Canberra.

Important questions of need among Island residents require not only criteria for assessing need but data about those criteria to be available to the decision-makers. The indications are that such data is not collected sys-

tematically.

Finally there has not been a census conducted on the Island for some years now and so basic demographic data does not seem to be either readily available or reliable.

Doubtless further research could turn up other instances where decision-making has to rely on intuition and those rather uneven patterns of bureaucratic recollection called "experience" rather than on reliable, systematically collected data available on demand.

The point here is that Australian decision-makers cannot effectively meet their obligation to protect the rights of Norfolk Islanders and promote their well-being and their political, economic, social and educational advancement by casual reliance on intuition, no matter what direction the Island's future takes.

There would therefore seem to be a clear merit in identifying and collecting the data that is going to be needed to make sensible and sound decisions about the island's future as a developing polity - economic, social, cultural and political data about its people and its institutions, its natural and its social environment.

Given the complexity and degree of involvement of the people with the data, such a job would have to be undertaken by an independent team of people who are sensitive to the needs and the concerns of a developing polity. That in itself suggests a multi-disciplinary expert approach.

For the data to be reliable, it would mean in the case of Norfolk Island, not just surveys, but a properly designed census of the entire population and its institutions.

...ooOoo...

D. THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT: THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Australia took control of Norfolk Island's affairs from Britain by agreement between the two powers in 1914. Historical accounts of Australia's subsequent role in promoting the well-being of the inhabitants with appropriate political, economic and social measures can be derived, albeit haphazardly, from sources such as Merval Hoare, the Norfolk Island Council papers and the Nimmo Report.

In general, it should be stressed that there is absolutely no legal or other doubt about Australia's sovereignty over Norfolk Island. As confirmed

by the Berwick Case decision in 1976 by the High Court, the Federal Parliament has full plenary power to do anything it likes with Norfolk Island.

But there are moral constraints. R.H. Ellicott, Q.C. and M.H. McLelland, Q.C., point out in their joint opinion of August 1973 (Appendix G) that legally there is no restriction on Parliament's power based on "injustice, capriciousness or similar considerations." But Parliamentarians well know they have to take into account those moral considerations enshrined in the democratic tradition - among them justice, fairness and, in the case of overseas actions, international obligations.

Given this, two specific aspects of Australia's "official" attitudes and behaviour towards Norfolk Island merit close attention. They are:

Australian Concern. Norfolk Island has never really rated high on any Australian Government's agenda of concerns. This is quite understandable - if only because there are no votes and few vested interests for or against the Island located on the Australian mainland. There has been no internal spur to foster the political will needed to meet the moral responsibility Australia implicitly accepted when it signed the U.N. Charter to ensure for non-self-governing territories like Norfolk Island, "with due respect for the culture of the people concerned, their political, social, economic and educational advancement, their just treatment and their protection against abuses."

(Article 73a of the U.N. Charter).

In the absence of any political imperative, reflective policy formation and implementation in Canberra has obviously been left in the hands of a small band of anonymous civil servants. The outcome has been, as Sir John Nimmo noted in his report, a lack of proper communication and consultation between Canberra and the Islanders and the absence of clear and agreed long-term policies.

This too is quite understandable - if not inevitable under remote-control decision-making over distances of 1900 kilometres. A breakdown in relationships is quite predictable under such circumstances.

The formal relationship with Norfolk Island is maintained by the Governor-General appointing an Administrator located on the Island who then liaises on a day-to-day basis with the Minister who has responsibility for administering the Norfolk Island Acts of the Federal

Parliament. It appears that this Minister is in turn serviced by a unit of the Public Service charged with handling Australia's overseas territories and within this unit there is one officer, usually an Assistant Secretary, in charge of the Norfolk Island file. When contentious issues arise, an interdepartmental committee (I.D.C.) is formed. Other aspects of the Canberra administration are discussed on pp. 345-348 of the Nimmo Report.

As at the end of 1977, Norfolk Island has been swapped around among at least three different Ministries and departments, each with other responsibilities besides Norfolk Island over the past six years. Two outcomes are inevitable: firstly Ministers have to pay more attention to the more partisan issues from other areas of their portfolio. The generation of solutions to Norfolk Island problems is thus initially to the small handful of civil servants in the territories unit; secondly, Norfolk Island matters extremely important to Norfolk Islanders will naturally lose in the competition for attention within the department. And meetings of the I.D.C.'s seem to go about their business very slowly, not according to the moral, let alone the political imperatives of the issue, but according to the availability of committee members.

Hence management of the dynamics of Norfolk Island's progress seems largely left in the hands of a small group of bureaucrats, shielded from public scrutiny and who may or may not have the requisite background for sound, responsive, just and prudent decision-making, let alone the will or the skill to go to bat for the Island in the competition for Ministerial and Cabinet attention. (Norfolk Islanders complain that in October, 1977, the key civil servant in Canberra had spent only one day on the Island.)

Small wonder that Sir John Nimmo felt impelled to highlight somewhat savagely the "basic and damaging" aspects of Canberra's administrative behaviour towards the Island (pp. 345-346); no wonder that the Islanders find themselves in an almost continual dispute generated by an overload of what can only be described as ministerial and bureaucratic equivocation, unresponsiveness, patronising moral arrogance, ineptness and at times intransigence sustained in a fairly consistent pattern for the last 100 years.

While Australia has avoided the oppressive and exploitive excesses

of other colonial powers, there are grounds for asserting that Norfolk Island's development has been mainly due to the enterprise of the Islanders themselves in combination with the will and skill of locally-based Administrators.

What has happened on the Island has almost been in spite of Canberra and neither successive Australian Governments (and their political parties) nor the Australian Public Service can really take any pride in the way they have met the "sacred trust" highlighted in the U.N. Charter of promoting the well-being of inhabitants of territories, as far as Norfolk Island is concerned.

Furthermore it is appalling that in 1978 there are a body of people otherwise regarded as Australian citizens not only with no vote about the national parliament but even worse, with no power of decision-making about their own community's affairs. It leaves Australia wide open to well-merited criticism of failure to meet the responsibility under Article 73b of the Charter "to develop self-government, to take due account of the political aspirations of the peoples and to assist them in the progressive development of their free political institutions..."

Obviously it is past time for the clumsy, ad hoc policy development and implementation approach of the recent years to be changed - and radically.

Fortunately there is now the prospect of some impetus for such change and the Islanders generally place strong hope for this in it. Following the Cabinet reorganisation after the 1977 Federal election which saw the Fraser administration returned to power in Canberra, responsibility for Norfolk Island was transferred to the new Ministry for Home Affairs. The Minister appointed was the Hon. R.J. Ellicott, Q.C. As the author of a joint opinion on Norfolk Island's constitutional and legal status in 1975 and as a visitor to the Island as the then Attorney-General for five days in June 1977, Mr. Ellicott took the office with "a better-informed understanding of Norfolk than any other Minister since Australia took up responsibility for the Island's administration 63 years ago", according to the Norfolk Island News (January 1978, p. 4).

Australia's International Stance.
Australia signed the U.N. Charter as a foundation member on 1 November 1945, and the following year under its obligation of Article 73e, enumerated and began transmitting information on the overseas territories it considered non-self-governing, as distinct from trust territories. The Australian Government of the day saw fit to nominate the obvious territories of the Cocos Islands and Papua. But it excluded Norfolk Island. What combination of moral fervour, political prudence and then-current perceptions of the nature of colonialism motivated this particular choice remains a matter for further research.

But, some 30 years later, the Department of Foreign Affairs clings to the claim that Norfolk Island is not a non-self-governing territory, but rather a part of metropolitan Australia, on the rather specious basis that no other member state of the U.N. has ever proposed that it be otherwise regarded.

This sort of rationalising has been reinforced by the unfortunate references to Norfolk Island in the otherwise excellent report in 1975 from the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence on "United Nations Involvement with Australia's Territories". (See Bibliography). (It should be noted here that Chapters 2, 3 and 4 provide a valuable introduction to Australia's obligation towards its external territories under the terms of the U.N. Charter and appropriate General Assembly resolutions.)

The Senate Committee took the misplaced view that "a number of factors militate against even the possibility of United Nations involvement in Norfolk Island... Such a step is neither justified nor is it likely to occur." (p. 143)

It is noteworthy that the Committee seemed to go beyond the rather limited information presented to it by, for instance, the Foreign Affairs Group of the Parliament Legislative Research Service apropos Norfolk Island.

Certainly it did not have the benefit of any first-hand experience of Norfolk Island (and this is a necessity). But in fairness, the Committee was primarily occupied with developments over one of Australia's officially-declared non-self-governing territories, the Cocos Islands.

Hence it came to conclusions that

are somewhat of a joke on Norfolk Island. The Norfolk Island Council analysis claims nine straight errors of fact or significant distortion in the Committee's Report - (see pp41-42 of Appendix D-11).

The official Australian stance on Norfolk Island is, in short, patently ludicrous.

The obvious explanation why it has never been challenged lies in a combination of other States' ignorance of Norfolk Island; the Norfolk Islanders' goodwill coupled with their limited knowledge and understanding of the workings of the U.N. system and the most effective ways of lifting the veil of ignorance from other member States; and - in tribute to the good work of Australia's Diplomatic Corps - the standing and esteem in which Australia is held in the U.N. and elsewhere in the international community on colonial matters, thanks in large measure to the wise and sympathetic trusteeship of Nauru and New Guinea.

But, by the criteria of the resolutions of the U.N. General Assembly, particularly those on geographic distance, ethnic and cultural distinctness and judicial, administrative, economic and even historical links, and by the reality of Australia's behaviour towards it, Norfolk Island is quite clearly and inescapably at present a non-self-governing colony of Australia.

In addition, legally, the opinion of M.H. McLelland, Q.C., of 11th August 1975 (Appendix H) has far more power in its line of argument than the contrived analysis provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs in its submission to the Nimmo Royal Commission (transcript p. 3140). The McLelland conclusion: "As a matter of law the relationship between Norfolk Island and Australia falls within the provision of Article 73".

The official Australian position is also a highly unstable one. Given the current swings and shifts in international relationships, it does not need much imagination to see the embarrassment that could be caused to Australia should the Islanders choose to document their view of their relationship with Australia in the right way and request the Secretary-General to have the matter looked into as an admittedly small but nevertheless potentially significant problem in terms of the General Assembly declarations about the continuation of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations posing a threat to international peace and se-

curity, (see Resolution 2621 XXV); and having done this to circulate their view to resident U.N. representatives on the Committee of 24, the international press and the heads of government of selected States, especially in the Pacific region and our disputatious friends in ASEAN - let alone others in the Group of 77.

The Australian position on Norfolk Island's colonial status needs prompt reconsideration, if only to be prepared with a more plausible response to any sudden upsurge of interest in the status of Norfolk Island by other member States of the international community either directly to Canberra or through the United Nations.

...ooOoo...

E. NORFOLK ISLAND, THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE U.N.A.A.

The United Nations has never made Norfolk Island the subject of any debates or resolutions in the General Assembly or any of its related bodies. The Island has never been an issue.

In simple terms, the reason for this is that Australia has never listed Norfolk Island as a non-self-governing territory and no other member has asked why it hasn't - let alone moved to add the Island to the U.N. list. (It is intriguing to note, however, that Britain has seen fit to nominate Pitcairn Island, whose 92 residents are mostly blood relatives of the Norfolk Island "Pitcairners".)

There has, however, been some indirect U.N. involvement with the Island. Norfolk Island is referred to in a U.N.I.T.A.R. study "Small States and Territories - Their Status and Their Problems" written by Jacques Rapaport, Ernest Muteba and Joseph J. Therattil and published by the Division of Public Administration. In addition, in 1974, the chairman of a U.N. visiting mission about Cocos was reported as saying that Norfolk Island was "an externally administered territory which could come under the aegis of the U.N. Committee of 24 on Decolonisation" (Canberra Times, August 6, 1974).

Norfolk Island has tried to involve the U.N. - but went about it ineffectively.

In February 1977, the eight elected members of the advisory Norfolk Island Council jointly signed a lengthy letter, well backgrounded, to the Chairman of the Committee of 24 (see Appendix Dii). I am reliably informed that after several months and some prodding with follow-up

cables the then Chairman replied that the Committee could not take up the matter as it had not been referred to the Committee by the General Assembly.

That move failed. However it is known that the Councillors and other interested citizens are exploring alternative ways of gaining the General Assembly's attention, should the question of the Island's status not be resolved satisfactorily with Australia in the not too distant future.

It can only be said that Australia was lucky on that first approach to the U.N.

Certainly the Australian Mission to the U.N. in New York must have put in some solid work and plenty of telex and consultation time with Canberra and other delegations to develop the face-saving formula that reportedly emerged from the Committee of 24.

But how much of Australia's reservoir of goodwill in U.N. diplomatic circles had to be used up at that time - and how long will the remainder of that reservoir last in the face of any concerted campaign by the Norfolk Islanders, should they choose to mount one?

It seems highly unlikely that the Norfolk Islanders would resort to force and so create a threat to international peace and security in order to get the General Assembly's attention. The strongest threat the Norfolk Islanders would appear to pose to Australia would be the threat of international embarrassment with spinoff political consequences in mainland Australia.

But such an assessment is essentially negative. A far more positive approach must surely be to defuse the threat and resolve the conflict before it could become an issue, however minor, at the United Nations.

There is a legitimate role for the United Nations Association of Australia to play in achieving that result.

As a non-governmental organisation it is committed to supporting the United Nations as a centre for harmonising the attainment of Charter purposes, notably the maintenance of international peace and security, respect for human rights, and the attainment of fundamental freedoms for all people.

Besides promoting the work of the United Nations within the Australian community it also has an obligation to ensure that Australia sustains the political will to meet its obligations as a member of the world community.

In the case of Norfolk Island the question is how the U.N.A.A. can most effectively meet its commitment.

Somewhat regretfully, the U.N.A.A.

itself was not aware of the nature of Norfolk Island as a colonial entity at the time the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence was considering U.N. involvement in Australia's overseas territories. Otherwise it might have helped to set the record right.

Whether any submission to the Nimmo Royal Commission would have been useful or effective is open to serious doubt. The Royal Commission had the benefit of evidence about Norfolk Island and Australia's international obligations including the Foreign Affairs stance and the McLelland opinion, but undermined its own utility by completely failing to acknowledge anything on this point in its final Report.

It was the aftermath that brought Norfolk Island to the attention of the U.N.A.A. through a draft resolution presented to the 1977 Federal Council from the N.S.W. Division expressing concern that a satisfactory solution be reached between the Norfolk Island Council and the Australian Government and instructing the Federal Executive to extend an offer of mediator services if requested. The resolution was approved.

It is pleasing to report that no such offer needs to be made now that the elevation of the Hon. R.J. Ellicott, Q.C., to the Ministry with the Home Affairs portfolio has broken the impasse previously existing. And the Norfolk Island Council has a direct link to the Minister through the Administrator, Mr. O'Leary.

What would be far more useful would be for the U.N.A.A. to consult with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Home Affairs with a view to having the Federal Government adopt a "self-determination" policy for Norfolk Island and recommending appropriate procedures to implement such a policy in a way that would meet the generally recognised international standards for an act of self-determination.

The U.N.A.A. should also establish what power and standing it may have to intervene in the appropriate Court or before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal should any unilateral moves be taken in Canberra on Norfolk Island's status either by administrative fiat or legislative action.

Finally the U.N.A.A. should consider what information, advice and assistance it would think proper and useful to give the Norfolk Islanders in resolving the conflict peacefully.

These matters are canvassed in more detail in the final section of this report.

(please turn to the next page)

F. TOWARDS RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT - CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

As at the beginning of February 1978, resolution of the Norfolk Island conflict seems readily attainable, given the much-improved relationship between the Australian government and the Islanders brought about by the appointment of the Hon. R.J. Ellicott, Q.C., as the responsible Minister.

There would appear to be two key requisites to resolution:

- a) A change in Canberra perceptions about Norfolk Island so that some fundamental realities become recognised; and
- b) generation of the necessary political will to resolve the matter in accordance with these realities.

The Realities of Norfolk Island.

The realities in need of recognition include the following:

1. Norfolk Island is at present quite clearly a non-self-governing colony of Australia. No challenge to that reality on moral, legal, political or sociological grounds is sustainable.
2. Australia has no justification for continuing to claim that Norfolk Island is part of metropolitan Australia and therefore not subject to Australia's obligations to the United Nations about non-self-governing territories.
3. It is a threat to the smooth and effective management of Australia's international relations to provide potentially hostile elements in the international community with the opportunity that Norfolk Island presents to embarrass Australia before the world.
4. Australia has firmly committed itself to the internationally recognised principle of self-determination. Australia practices this through its own Constitution. It is clearly inconsistent for the Federal Government to continue to refuse this right to the people of Norfolk Island.
5. The Nimmo Report regretfully cannot be taken as the basis for developing a sound consistent policy of self-determination for Norfolk Island. Despite its many good points, it is fundamentally flawed in:-
 - (a) its failure to canvass the aspect of Australia's international obligations under the U.N. declarations in the areas of colonialism and human rights in discuss-

ing the future status and the most appropriate form of administration for Norfolk Island.

(b) its inability to derive and adopt a systematic and valid approach to the business of consulting with, determining the wishes and interpreting the desires and capabilities of the permanent population of Norfolk Island as a political entity.

6. Equally, the otherwise solid report of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence on "United Nations' Involvement with Australian Territories" cannot be utilised on the Norfolk Island issue because of its failure to investigate adequately the reality of Norfolk Island as a polity.

7. Should they be so motivated, it will not take long for the Norfolk Islanders to uncover effective procedures for communicating their discontent to other Member States of the United Nations and thus speeding up the prospect for having the island placed on the U.N. list of non-self-governing territories by the General Assembly, with all the embarrassing consequences for Australia that that entails.

8. Australia's international and domestic interests would be best served by prompt steps to "power down" the intensity of the Norfolk Islanders' discontented uncertainty and then moving to establish a final basis for self-government of Norfolk Island with all deliberate speed.

Developing the Political Will - a Procedure.

It is considered that given all the current circumstances, the obligation to protect the Islanders' rights as well as promote their well-being and the obligation also to protect Australia's interests, an effective procedure for resolving the dispute in accordance with the preceding points might be as follows:-

1. The Minister for Home Affairs to immediately advise the Norfolk Island Council and the Federal Parliament that
 - (a) no decision on the future of Norfolk will be implemented without the Islanders' formal consent and
 - (b) that the Australian Government is prepared to begin promptly a process of consultation with Norfolk Islanders leading to a meaningful "act of self-determination" about the basis of self-government with association with Australia.
2. In order to more systematically establish the social, economic and

legal basis of association, the Minister for Home Affairs to commission an inter-disciplinary data-collection study on the cultural, social and economic patterns of needs, desires, values and attitudes of Norfolk Island as a polity involving among other things a comprehensive and compulsory census of the permanent population. The study should be carried out by a carefully-chosen, private and independent consultancy to a design approved by a Ministerial input panel that includes Island representatives.

3. The Minister for Home Affairs to simultaneously set up a working party of appropriate experts inside and outside the Public Service to meet with the Norfolk Island Council and begin preliminary discussions of the Draft Constitution, both on the Island and in Canberra, with a view to establishing the limits of its usefulness to both Australia and to the Norfolk Islanders.

4. At the same time the Minister to ask the Norfolk Island Council to report on the process of consultation it proposes to pursue to ensure that all elements of the community have adequate opportunity to contribute their views and suggestions for change in a full spirit of free exchange and in keeping with Island community decision-making practice, with a view to developing a generally-recognised consensus about the contents of a most desirable Constitution.

5. On receipt of the completed study, recommence working party discussions with the aim of preparing documentation for a public Constitutional Convention to be held on the Island, charged with producing a consensus Constitution.

6. Commission a referendum or other agreed formal act of self-determination.

The only other element required for reducing the Islanders' uncertainties to a manageable level would be a time-table for implementing this or any other alternative procedure. The eight members of the current advisory Council come up for re-election in or about next June.

Given this it may not be unreasonable to suggest that the basic study and the suggested census be carried out in time to permit the suggested Constitutional Convention to be initially scheduled for November/December next. Should this be feasible, an act of transition to the agreed status could be appropriately set for Bounty Day 1979 - June 8.

Naturally, all costs for implement-

ing any such procedure should be met by the Federal Government.

A procedure along these lines would, it is felt, promptly remove Island doubts about being consulted and by its systematic approach to the business of effective communication between the Islanders and Canberra ensure that:-

- a) decision-makers have adequate data;
- b) the Norfolk Island community is canvassed thoroughly and motivated to generate their own understanding of what is involved and subsequently contribute in an atmosphere that will reduce defensiveness and subsequent discontent about outcomes to the minimum;
- c) there is adequate opportunity for Australia to contribute input considered desirable to protect Australian interests on the fiscal and economic management side while still meeting its international obligations.
- d) no opportunity is given for valid criticism of the procedure in international circles as other than an appropriate "act of self-determination".

Thus the conflict would be completely resolved.

In conclusion I therefore recommend that the U.N.A.A.:-

- (a) Approach the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the basis of this report and seek his support for
 - i) an Australian policy of "self-determination" for Norfolk Island; and;
 - ii) reconsideration of Australia's official stance on Norfolk Island as a non-self-governing territory, at this stage only as a defensive measure should the matter be brought up by other parties within the U.N. system.
- (b) Approach the Minister for Home Affairs on the basis of this report and seek his support for
 - iii) the promulgation of an Australian policy of "self-determination" for Norfolk Island on the basis of either free association with Australia or integration with Australia.

iv) the recommended procedure as the basis for prudent implementation of the policy and an appropriate "act of self-determination" in the international sense.

(c) Offer its help in principle to the Norfolk Island Council to resolve the conflict and ask what specific steps the Council would like to see taken in the light of events since this report was presented.

(d) Investigate the Association's status before Australian courts and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal so that appropriate injunction action can be initiated should unilateral action be taken in Canberra in a manner that might damage Australia's standing at the United Nations.

(e) Take any other appropriate steps to create a climate of informed public opinion in Australia should the need arise.

"I don't think there is any hope"-Minister

ADVANCE COPIES of the United Nations Association report were sent about March 14th to the Ministers for Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs.

The report was quoted from by several Councillors at the broadcast talks with Mr. Ellicott on Norfolk on March 20th.

Mr. Ellicott's only comment was, "The United Nations situation has been indicated. I don't

think there is any hope of getting my Government to accept that proposition. The Island should be treated as if it was a Territory of the Commonwealth."

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COUNCIL: "Norfolk can stand on its two feet. We only want the opportunity to develop sensibly, in friendship"

MINISTER: "It's unthinkable that you should not realise that the Australian Parliament is your Parliament when a Minister of State is here, with the right to make decisions about you"

HON. R.J. ELLICOTT, Norfolk's new responsible Minister, was warmly welcomed to the Island on March 19th as a man of principle - and one who was on record as believing that Norfolk is a distinct and separate settlement and that Australia should administer for the Island's benefit, not Australia's.

But he soon made it plain that as Minister for Home Affairs he had laid aside the principles he had said Australia was morally bound to follow on Norfolk.

His message, over and over again - even preached to the children at the Norfolk school - was "This is Australia. You are Australians."

Mr. Ellicott periodically assured the Island that no decision had yet been made about implementing the Nimmo Report, but his comments on many specific points left no doubt what decision is planned.

Through an all-day broadcast meeting with Council on Monday the 20th, he leafed back and forth through a copy of the Nimmo Report as if it were his basic reference work.

In some six hours of talks with the Minister, Councillors expressed their deep objections to the main Nimmo recommendations, and told how the Island can manage local affairs better than Canberra bureaucrats can.

On only one point did Mr. Ellicott give ready agreement. He said his recommendations would include some form of local assembly, with some legislative powers. That is what the Nimmo Report proposed.

An hour before the Minister's VIP aircraft returned to Australia on Tuesday evening, the new head of Mr. Ellicott's department, Dr. D. McMichael, told The News that the department intended to almost double the number of Canberra public servants working full-time on Australia's three external territories. The Department of Administrative Services had one Branch of territories staff, "plus a bit". Mr. Ellicott and Dr. McMichael have agreed that two

full Branches will be needed to handle the additional territories work they expect to be doing in Canberra.

Nimmo was wrong - but that doesn't matter

WHILE STILL using the Nimmo Report as if it were sound, the Government has dropped Sir John Nimmo's basic argument.

The Report said that Norfolk was so costly to support that the people of the Island were entitled to no say in the shaping of the Island's future form of government.

"As the net overall financial burden is clearly being borne by mainland Australia and no one else," wrote Sir John Nimmo, "it is proper that the Commonwealth should have this choice. If Norfolk Island residents were meeting this cost then they would have a case for exercising the choice themselves via a referendum."

Judge Nimmo was not aware that he was relying on a wrong set of figures, and that Norfolk is self-supporting.

Mr. Ellicott simply brushed the error aside during his talks with Council.

"I don't want to go into the question of whether the assessment in the Nimmo Report is accurate or not," he said. "I think that's not a very productive thing for us to talk about this morning."

The Government's new position, as spelled out by the Minister in disjointed, almost incomprehensible sentences, is that the cost of Norfolk isn't really important, after all. Australia is motivated only by the fact that it has realised after 64 years how much it cares about the people of Norfolk.

Australia feels a very special responsibility toward Norfolk, Mr. Ellicott said - as it feels a special responsibility toward all Australians, wherever they may be.

Here is the way Mr. Ellicott explained this new position to Council -

giving, along the way, an explanation of the function of the Administrator here:

"The approach of the Government is that Norfolk Island is a part of Australia in the sense that I have expressed, and the Government feels a responsibility to the people here and that responsibility is both a political responsibility, because we are the Government of Norfolk Island in that sense, and it is not remote in the sense that distance places Norfolk Island away from the mainland. It's very immediate and it always has been immediate since Australia took over Norfolk Island in the early part of this century, and that's why there is an Administrator here. So it's both a political responsibility which the Government is prepared to face up to and if it means that for the benefit of the people of Norfolk Island there is a financial burden, the Government within the confines of its own financial capacities will assume that burden."

Govern by consent? "I don't think so."

ASKED whether the Island would be given the right to give consent to its future form of government by referendum, Mr. Ellicott said "I don't think so".

Perhaps realising that this is the central point in the entire controversy between Australia and Norfolk, and that such a flat answer might sound dictatorial, Mr. Ellicott added that the Government would call a referendum if the Government should decide that a referendum was necessary.

He touched on the point again in a taped farewell message which was broadcast March 22, the day after his departure. The point was the same. If the Government should feel it was necessary, it would hold a referendum.

But the Government recognises no right of the Island's people to choose their government by consent.

"I've got to make recommendations

which are going to determine the future of the Island," Mr. Ellicott told the Council.

"There is a need to accept whatever the decision is," he said, "and move with it."

Historical rights not important any longer

THE GOVERNMENT apparently has also abandoned the Nimmo Report's position on the historical rights of the Pitcairn settlers.

The Nimmo report denied the existence of any such rights, saying that there was not even any significant circumstantial evidence that could lend support to them.

Since the publication of the Report in 1976, a sequence of British historical documents has been shown to demonstrate that England authorised the ownership of all Norfolk Island land by the Pitcairners - individually or for community use - and instructed a nominal Governor that the Pitcairners should continue governing themselves.

At the Monday meetings with Council Mr. Ellicott did not support the Nimmo position, although it is crucial to the terms of reference given to Sir John's Royal Commission. He also made no acknowledgement of the British documents that have been widely circulated since the Report.

The new official stance on the historical rights, as expressed by Mr. Ellicott, is "It's digging up the past in a way that I don't think it's helpful at this stage."

The Minister said he had deep sympathies for the Pitcairners, and had "shared in some of the traditional customs and singing" of the Islanders. He observed that the Nimmo Report had made recommendations concerning the sustaining of the Pitcairners' culture. (The Nimmo Report recommended that a section of the Norfolk Island Public Service should be set up to do this.)

"This is Australia. You are Australians."

THROUGHOUT the three days he spent on the Island, Mr. Ellicott spoke in a tone of voice that was gentle and earnest.

He talked at great length, touching on a wide range of subjects. Interwoven through all of his comments were assurances that he would take everything into account, that he felt deep responsibility to all on Norfolk, that he had an open mind, that he had not arrived at any decision yet, and that everyone was working sincerely toward a solution

that would be as fair, reasonable, decent, productive, considerate, beneficial and wise as is humanly possible.

But people listening closely realised, with dismay and fear, what policies the fatherly voice was laying down. This is Australia. You are subject to us. We make the decisions, not you. You are going to do things the way we do them. Your time of being different from Australia is over.

The new policies were spelled out as Mr. Ellicott -

- SUPPORTED each of the four greatest changes proposed by the Nimmo Report, which would integrate Norfolk into Australia - full payment of Australian taxes, extension of all mainland social welfare benefit payments, the extension of all Australian laws to the Island, and putting Norfolk voters into the electorate of Canberra

- WAVED ASIDE a report from the United Nations Association of Australia, which says Norfolk is entitled to self-determination, saying he thought there was no hope of the Government's accepting that proposition

- DECLINED to acknowledge that the Pitcairners are a distinct race with its own bloodlines, traditions and culture

- WAS ADAMANT that the Australian Parliament, in which Norfolk has no vote and wants no vote, is "your Parliament". "It's unthinkable, in my view," Mr. Ellicott said, "that you should not realise that the Australian Parliament is your Parliament when a Minister of State is here, appointed from the numbers of members of that Parliament, and has, through the system of Government that's adopted, the right to make decisions about people here in a very personal way."

- FAULTED the solemn declarations, in which two-thirds of Norfolk electors expressed their preference to remain distinct from Australia, on the remarkable ground that people may have had specific reasons for voting as they did. "I have to weigh up the possible motivations that people may have had in voting a particular way," he said, "and those motivations may or may not affect the soundness of it, depending what the motivations are."

- COMPARED the Pitcairners, who governed Norfolk for generations before the Commonwealth came into existence, with Turkish, Greek and Italian migrants who have moved into Australia

- BELITTLED Norfolk's ability to produce candidates for election who

could handle much governmental responsibility. Mr. Ellicott pointed out that even in the City of Canberra, people had doubts about being able to find good enough people to manage the affairs of the A. C. T.

- CREDITED past Australian Government policies with having made Norfolk a place that people do not want to change.

Government timetable: June 30, maybe sooner

MR. ELLICOTT outlined the timetable on which he expected Australia to make and announce its decision about Norfolk's future form of government.

Until "early April" Mr. Ellicott will receive any written comments residents may wish to send him.

He will then make a "provisional" decision on what he will recommend to Cabinet.

Officers of his department will then have talks with other departments, including the Department of Transport, Treasury, the Prime Minister's Department and the Attorney-General's Department, to agree on matters affecting those departments.

Mr. Ellicott will then put his completed recommendation to Cabinet. He will have had to give ten days' notice before doing this.

Cabinet will then consider the recommendation. Mr. Ellicott thought this might take about a fortnight.

Cabinet will then decide what is to be done, and when the decision should be announced.

Mr. Ellicott hopes to be able to come to Norfolk and announce the decision here. If this is not possible, the decision will be announced by the Administrator.

Mr. Ellicott hopes the entire decision-making process can be completed before June 30.

MEETING WITH COUNCIL-DIRECT QUOTES

ON THE ISLAND'S ECONOMY

Cr. Blucher: "Norfolk Island is standing on its two feet, can stand on its two feet, and given the powers to control the earning of revenue, Norfolk Island will continue to stand on its two feet."

Cr. McIntyre: "The question of paying Australian tax was included in the question in the solemn declaration in 1977, and that resulted in over two-thirds of electors here declaring that

they wished Norfolk Island to remain distinct and separate, and have its own system of laws, and benefits, and taxes.

"So I think it's fair to say that the Nimmo recommendation has been overwhelmingly opposed by the people of Norfolk Island.

"I think the traditional situation of Norfolk Island as having its own internal economy, and from that, as best it can, deriving its own revenues, is one that's basic to the self-confidence of the Island.

"I think that economic independence, or self-sufficiency, is fundamental to morale of this place, its self-image, the way people who live here regard it.

"When it becomes necessary to rely on the Australian purse to maintain the Island at all, then that's detrimental.

"I think that it saps the strength of this place, and I would be very much opposed to moves of that kind.

"The first fact, I think, in looking at this proposal, is the one already mentioned by Cr. Blucher: we are in the black.

"Our economy is functioning well at the present time, notwithstanding that these are generally regarded as difficult times.

"Much as has been said about the fickleness of the tourist industry, it hasn't been fickle to Norfolk Island, though it still requires a deal of husbanding.

"I am unable to accept that we are in financial trouble, and I'm unable completely to accept Sir John Nimmo's reasoning for proposing to bring Australian taxes to Norfolk Island.

"The argument that Sir John Nimmo proposed was that tax was justified because Australia spent \$2½ million dollars on Norfolk Island in a year.

"I think that figure is outrageously untrue, and unfair to Norfolk Island..."

CR. SNELL: "SELF-DISCIPLINE WOULD DISAPPEAR..."

Cr. Snell: "It is essential that we have control over our own fiscal structure.

"It may be that any major capital expenditure will of necessity need to be partly funded by means of a loan from the Australian Government, but this should be upon a commercial basis, and such loans should generate sufficient income to the Island to satisfy its servicing and ultimate repayment.

"It is desirable, I feel, that Norfolk Island be given the authority to levy local taxes to meet Island needs wherever necessary.

"If we were completely absorbed into the Australian system it would

be sure to effect a restraint on the private sector, and most certainly kill the self-generated economy of this Island.

"Including Norfolk Island in the Australian system, the cost to the Australian taxpayer would be high, as certainly in this small community the present conditions and self-discipline would disappear completely, and the Island would become entirely dependant on the Australian welfare state."

CR. MacKENZIE: "WHAT WORRIES ME IS WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE COST OF LIVING..."

Cr. McKenzie: "The point that concerns me the most is what is going to happen to the cost of living.

"At the present time a normal chargeout rate of a tradesman to customers is about \$6 an hour.

"On the mainland, with people paying tax, and provisional tax, and goodness knows what, their chargeout rate is around about \$16 an hour.

"And this is a point that worries me, it's the fact that if business people come under the Australian tax system here they'll have to keep proper sets of books, which most of them don't now, they'll have to pay accountancy fees, and all of this is going to add to the cost of this community, which everyone is going to have to pay.

"I often wonder as to whether the Australian Government has ever had a feasibility study of what they expect to get out of taxing Norfolk Island.

"I don't think this has been done, but you may know of one and enlighten us.

"I feel in my own heart it's going to cost the Australian Government a lot more by applying taxation to Norfolk Island."

MR. ELLICOTT: "IF THE GOVERNMENT FELT IT WAS IN THE INTERESTS OF AUSTRALIANS LIVING ON NORFOLK ISLAND..."

Mr. Ellicott: "I don't think it would be a correct approach to assume that the Government is looking at this in terms of the financial or political burden to Australia.

"There'll be departments of state such as the Treasury, whose job it is to assess the burden, if it is a burden, but so far as the Government is concerned, that is not the approach of the Government.

"...The question is really, that's thrown up by the Nimmo Report, and that isn't necessarily the view

of the Australian Government, you understand that, they haven't formed a view yet, but the Nimmo Report is saying that Norfolk Island should be treated as part of Australia, basically, and therefore all the things that all Australians get, Australians who live on Norfolk Island should get, and all the welfare benefits, etc., they should get.

"Now the net result of that proposition may be a larger burden to the Australian Treasury; but if the Australian Government felt that was the proper, the right thing to do, in the interests of Australians living on Norfolk Island, then it would do it.

"That's the approach that the Government is making."

Australians or Norfolk Islanders?

CR. SNELL: "WE CONSIDER OURSELVES TO BE NORFOLK ISLANDERS"

Cr. Snell: "The Norfolk Islander considers himself a separate race of people, not particularly an Australian citizen..."

"As I've mentioned before, I can't consider that because Norfolk Island is classified as part of Australia, that the Norfolk Island people should be then subjected to Australian taxation purely because we are considered as Australians.

"As history will show, the Norfolk Island people, my family included, colonised Norfolk Island in similar circumstances to the colonisation of Australia; and therefore we have that distinction of being a separate race of people, and we consider ourselves to be Norfolk Islanders and not necessarily Australians."

CR. BLUCHER: "FOR OVER 120 YEARS PITCAIRNERS HAVE NOT REGARDED THEMSELVES AS AUSTRALIANS..."

Cr. Blucher: "The people of Norfolk Island are quite a distinct race of people than from Australians, or New Zealanders, or anyone else for that matter.

"Those people represent the major portion of the population here on Norfolk Island.

"That particular representative nature of the population, being the majority, ... those people even today regard their ethnic and cultural relationships as being completely distinct from that of Australia, or Australians.

"I realise, Mr. Minister, that you view the situation that Norfolk Islanders, wherever they come from, or whether their bloodlines originate

from, are Australians in that sense of the word.

"However, I'd like to impress on you the feeling of the Pitcairn-descended people, and that is for over 120 years they have not regarded themselves as Australians - I suppose in the same sense as Pitcairn Islanders perhaps have not regarded themselves as Americans, or New Zealanders, or whatever - or perhaps New Guineans have never regarded themselves as Australians, and Cocos Island people, probably because of their distinct bloodline, have never regarded themselves as Australians.

"But I take your point that because the Government of Australia controls these areas, that they are regarded by the Australian Government as Australians.

"However I would like to impress on you very clearly that the Pitcairn-descendant people here on Norfolk Island never have done, and I doubt whether they ever will - ever - regard themselves as Australians, in that sense of the word."

MR. ELLICOTT: "I HAVE SHARED IN SOME OF THE TRADITIONAL CUSTOMS AND SINGING..."

Mr. Ellicott: "I think you can assume I've read a deal about the history of the Pitcairn settlers, and I understand the historical development of Norfolk Island; and I understand to some extent, in my past visit and in this visit, shared in some of the traditional customs and singing of the Pitcairn settlers of Norfolk Island.

"I understand that.

"I don't think that Mr. Justice Nimmo felt that the Pitcairn settlers and their descendants were not a significant part of the people of Norfolk Island, or that their traditions should not be retained and promoted - that's very important, that that should happen.

"Tis true to say, of course, for instance in my electorate in Australia, there are groups of people from other countries who've come to live in Australia; they tend to live together.

"Groups of Turkish people, or groups of Greek or Italian people tend to live in the same area, and in areas there would be as many as there would be Pitcairn descendants on this Island.

"It's the Government's policy that those people, although they become part of the Australian community, should nevertheless be encouraged to sustain their own traditions, and that's very important.

"Needless to say they don't live in an isolated area, such as Norfolk

Island, and to that extent they don't share the same aspirations for some form of local self government, as you do; but the idea of sustaining their customs and attitudes, beliefs, is very much present in the Australian Government's approach to those people.

"I think you'll find the Government is very much sympathetic to that situation on Norfolk Island.

"On Norfolk Island of course there are not only people of Pitcairn descent, but other people; and those other people for all I know may be a majority, or close to majority - that's a matter of history as well - and you are faced here with a mixed community of Pitcairners, if I can use that expression, and non-Pitcairners, and the two groups are quite substantial, so that you can't say that one is greater than the other, basically in terms of numbers, perhaps, because those who are Pitcairners by descent also have wives and children and certainly the wives are non-Pitcairners in many instances, but not in all instances.

"All I'm saying is that you're faced here with a mixed society, and I don't think it's the Government's desire to leave out of account the history of Norfolk Island - I certainly would not want to - or the composition of the population here, having regard to that history - both significant matters to take into account.

"...and of course there are some recommendations that are contained in the Nimmo Report with a view to sustaining them."

CR. QUINTAL: "I AM FIRST AND FOREMOST A NORFOLK ISLANDER"

Cr. Quintal: "Australia has passed laws that state that we Pitcairners are Australians.

"We did not vote on these laws, and it is my belief if we had had the opportunity of voting maybe it would have been a different matter, if we're allowed to have our say.

"Perhaps one day the people of Norfolk will vote that they wish to be Australians, and wish the Island to be part of Australia.

"As for myself, I am first and foremost a Norfolk Islander. My people used to be Pitcairn Islanders. They traded their Island for Norfolk Island. This has been our home ever since.

"Australian laws might say that Australia has the right to do what it likes with Norfolk Island.

"I say that Norfolk Island was promised to the Pitcairn people.

"I believe if Australia wants to govern Norfolk Island with a clear

conscience, you should respect our historical rights by putting the interests of Norfolk Islanders first, and the interests of Australia second.

"That is what I believe, and that is what we have believed since we have lived here."

CR. SNELL: "I WAS BORN A NORFOLK ISLANDER AND I SHALL DIE A NORFOLK ISLANDER."

Cr. Snell: "Regardless of what label is placed upon us - and I mean the Norfolk Islander - we can be called pelicans from Greenland, or Australians, or anything else - I was born a Norfolk Islander and I shall die a Norfolk Islander... it appears that what's going to happen now is that we are going to be labelled as "Australians"; but if the situation arises where Norfolk Island is not given the benefit of determining their own future by, of course, the course of a referendum, and they are labelled Australians, and incorporated within the realms of Australia, it's obviously going to make history again."

Social welfare: local or Australian?

CR. MCINTYRE: "EVERY INITIATIVE RESPECTING WELFARE ON NORFOLK ISLAND HAS ARISEN IN THIS COUNCIL..."

Cr. McIntyre: "The development of welfare on Norfolk Island has in my time moved from a community matter to more directly a Council meeting.

"I was very interested to hear the Minister's remarks of the concern felt by Parliamentarians in Australia for the welfare of people on Norfolk Island.

"The reason why I was very interested in that is because not once, to my knowledge, has there been an initiative respecting welfare coming through the Department.

"Every initiative respecting welfare on Norfolk Island has risen in this Council..."

MR. ELLICOTT: "WITH THE GROWTH IN INCOME AND THE LIKE, THE GOVERNMENT OUGHT TO PROVIDE"

Mr. Ellicott: "You can't isolate yourselves from the demands that people will make upon you.

"But some of those demands may be extravagant, and those are the sorts of demands that politicians ought to resist, but they don't always resist them.

"On the other hand there are demands that some people make that are based on a sense of exploitation, or injustice, or whatever word you might like to use to describe it, and they're

just demands, or they may be demands of a middle character, which people feel ought to be met by a Government of a particular character.

"Let me give you an example.

"In Australia there's a demand for child care centres. Well, that's a demand which would not have been made many years ago, but now, with changing attitudes, people in the community, and the Government accepts that there ought to be child care centres.

"That's the sort of demand that fits in with what you might call the general view of the community, and Norfolk Island will not be immune from that sort of - I don't say child care centres in itself - but that type of demand which people feel with the growth in income and the like, the governing authority, or the community, ought to provide..."

Solemn Declarations: nearly a referendum?

Cr. Quintal: "Mr. Minister, would you agree that although we have not had a referendum, the closest thing to a referendum is the solemn declarations?"

MR. ELLICOTT: "PEOPLE MIGHT VOTE ONE WAY OR ANOTHER FOR SPECIFIC REASONS..."

Mr. Ellicott: "So far as it goes, I take it into account... people here are no doubt to some extent afraid of increased taxation from Australia, and I only say that any poll of this description is open to the interpretation, at least that some of those people would vote in the way they did because of a fear of Australian taxation.

"In other words you could never sort of sever, in your consideration of the matters, those who might vote one way or another for specific reasons.

"That's why, although I don't say to you I won't consider this, at the same time it's not easy to treat it as a simple yes or no proposition, and in saying that I don't reflect on the way in which it was conducted, I simply say that, of its very nature, it's a circumstance which I take into account, I understand the basis on which it was conducted, I know that there are people who may, as I understand it some people, but not many, have indicated that they might have said something else, or they didn't think about it enough, but that has not led me to think that the views expressed are not, you know, basically, a large majority one way, and a smaller majority the other way.

"I know that you place a great deal of importance on the document, and therefore I've taken a moment to talk

to you about it, and really what I'm saying to you is, yes, I understand, understand the basis on which you conducted it.

"At the same time, in weighing it up, I have to weigh up the possible motivations that people may have had in voting a particular way, and those motivations may or may not affect the soundness of it, depending what the motivations are..."

Should all Australian laws be brought here?

Mr. Ellicott: "I think this recommendation doesn't raise any legal or constitutional problems. It's really bound up with the basic thrust of the Nimmo Report, that is, that Australian tax, and Australian benefits, and Australian laws should, as a basic proposition, apply on Norfolk Island as part of Australia.

"To that extent this recommendation is bound up with other matters that we've already considered.

"It doesn't raise any legal problems because laws not applied to Norfolk Island for a long time have been applicable on the mainland.

"But it must be clear, though, that that change, or that suggested change, to some extent has been brought about by a desire for a change in the existing situation, and that of course did lead to the Nimmo Report, and the desire for constitutional change, so far as Norfolk Island is concerned, and that report has thrown up that issue."

Putting Norfolk into Canberra electorate

CR. MCINTYRE: "A FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION OF CONSENT..."

Cr. McIntyre: "The inclusion of Norfolk Island in the Australian Parliament appears to me to be a fundamental question of the consent of the Norfolk Island people to that kind of inclusion..."

MR. ELLICOTT: "THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT IS YOUR PARLIAMENT"

Mr. Ellicott: "The question of whether you have a Parliamentary representative may be seen, I suppose, from the point of view of 900 people in an electorate of, say, 70,000 people, is insignificantly contributing toward the voting pattern of that election.

"However I would have thought that one of the reasons that Mr. Justice Nimmo had in mind was to provide the people of the Island, first of all with at least a vote, but secondly because the Australian Parliament

is your Parliament.

"It's unthinkable, in my view, that you should not realise that the Australian Parliament is your Parliament when a Minister of State is here, appointed from the numbers of members of that Parliament, and has, through the system of Government that's adopted, the right to make decisions about people here in a very personal way.

"In every sense of the word, whether some of you accept it or not, it is your Parliament, and it makes decisions about you, and it's been making decisions about you for a long time; and therefore, in that sense, you might feel that you have a basic right to have some say, somewhere, in the representation.

"From the point of view of democracy, I would have thought it's got some substance in it, that proposition."

What Norfolk wants

CR. MCINTYRE: "THE PEOPLE'S WISHES IN THIS MATTER ARE OF THE MOST ENORMOUS IMPORTANCE"

Cr. McIntyre:

"The end that the people of Norfolk Island desire appears to me to be clear, even if the Australian Government's policies have yet to be firmed.

"The solemn declaration, for me, spells it out.

"Out of a close association with Australia, Norfolk Island wishes to retain its separate identity, its separate laws, its separate taxes, its separate welfare.

"If those wishes aren't respected in a decision made by the Australian Government, then it is my fear, and my concern, that there is no likelihood of the Australian decision being acceptable to, or accepted by, the Norfolk Island people.

"I really think that the people's wishes in this matter are of the most enormous importance - and if there's a better way of determining those wishes than the solemn declaration, then let us have the referendum.

"Even the Indonesians felt constrained to hold a referendum after they took over East Timor, to legitimate that integration.

"I've said in the past, and I can only say it again, Mr. Minister, that I believe firmly that the highest duty of the Australian Government is to respect the wishes of the Norfolk Island people, and to encourage us in our growth."

EDITORIAL

IN THE 120-YEAR HISTORY OF WRONGS inflicted on the Pitcairn people by insensitive and authoritarian rulers in Australia, the greatest of all may be about to occur.

The Pitcairners were cheated of land that Queen Victoria herself had given them when she made Norfolk Island their homeland in 1856. The right of self-government was wrenched from them, in contravention of Queen Victoria's orders, in 1896. They were bodily evicted from their homes, which the Government seized from them in 1908. When Australia took responsibility for the Island's good government in 1914, its Minister immediately called for the ending of their Pitcairn language. They were promised a restoration of their self-government in 1963, but the promise was flagrantly dishonoured. They were defamed and degraded by a Royal Commissioner in 1976, whose fallacious report is now being used by Australia to legitimate its intentions.

They have endured these wrongs. They have survived as a people, from generation to generation. Their families are the majority of the people who live on Norfolk Island today, and it is from them that the Island derives a strength and character that make it a kind of Eden in a world torn with stress.

But they would be unlikely to survive the enactment by Australia of laws taking away their historic right to claim Norfolk as their homeland - returning to live here whenever they are able, restricting others from doing so if they wish. They would be unlikely to survive legislation reflecting the new attitude of the Minister for Home Affairs, which is that it is not possible to acknowledge that the Pitcairners are even a distinct race. Such actions would be genocide by civil decree.

Not since 1896 have the people of the Island been so united in wishing to prevent outside injustice from damaging their way of life. Two-thirds of them have signed solemn declarations that they want Norfolk to regain local self-government, and do not want it integrated into Australia. The Government disdains these declarations. If it should decide to proceed with the expropriation of Norfolk the people of the Island will have not the slightest chance of preventing it unless they receive help, potent and prompt, from the outside world.

Australia has no clear title to ownership of Norfolk Island, only the authority to administer it. In 1975 R. J. Ellicott, Q. C., studied Australia's position and pronounced, in a signed legal opinion, that Norfolk is a separate and distinct settlement, which could be annexed into Australia only by an Act of the British Parliament. He said that Australia's position is not that of owner, but is akin to that of a trustee who should administer only for the benefit of the Island and its people. In October, 1977, R. J. Ellicott, Q. C., M. P., told Norfolk Island Councillors that he had no objection to their making the fullest use of his signed legal opinion in their effort to prevent the Island from being taken by Australia. In March, 1978, Hon. R. J. Ellicott, Minister for Home Affairs, abandoned those principles. "This is Australia," he told the people of Norfolk. He alluded to his personal power over people here. His very presence demonstrated Australia's authority: "... a Minister of State is here..." he said. The people of the Island who had placed their last, best hopes on this man of principle felt their hearts sink.

The small population of Norfolk Island could not resist an edict from Australia by themselves, however deep their will. If there are those elsewhere in the world who are able to prevent injustice, may God move them to do so now.

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GENERAL COMMISSION AGENTS and DISTRIBUTORS · WHOLESALERS · RETAILERS

Agents for

- MOBILOIL AUST. LTD. Petrol and oils
- KARLANDER (AUST.) PTY. LIMITED Shipping
- SOCIETE MARITIME CALEDONIENE Shipping
- MacDONALD HAMILTON & CO. LTD. Shipping
- GENERAL ACCIDENT GROUP (Yorkshire Insurance Co. Limited)
- REMINGTON Shavers, Home & personal care products
- SUZUKI MOTORS (JAPAN) Cars, trucks and motorcycles
- BRIDGESTONE TIRES (JAPAN) Truck, car & cycle tyres
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agricultural implements

Wholesalers/Retailers

REFRIGERATORS ... FREEZERS ... GAS STOVES ...
POULTRY & STOCK FEED ... FERTILISERS ...
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ROOFING MATERIALS ... GUTTERINGS

If you think we may be able to help you please ask us. We appreciate inquiries.

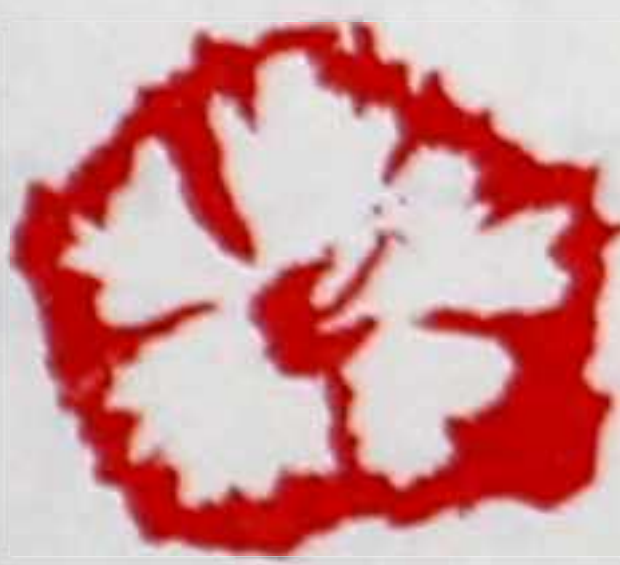
HOTEL



NORFOLK



International

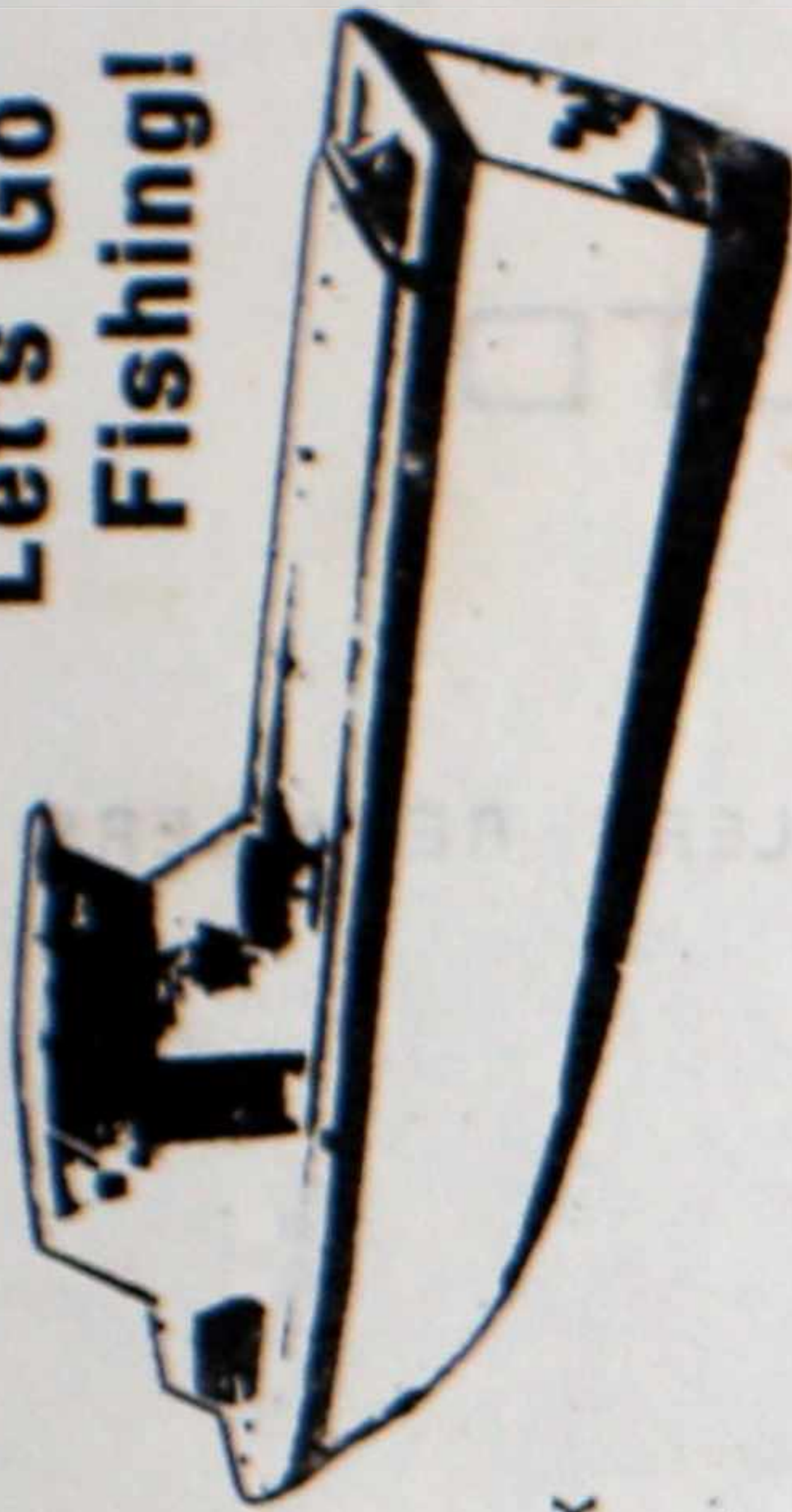


TROPICAL GARDENS, SWIMMING
POOL - - A WONDERFUL PLACE TO
STOP. CHOICE COUNTER LUNCH
AND A LA CARTE DINING ROOM

THE PLACE TO MEET AND RELAX
ON NORFOLK - OUR PINE BAR
AND LOUNGE. UPSTAIRS COCK-
TAIL BAR OPEN DURING MEALS.

YOUR HOST AND
HOSTESS - -
NORM & MARY STURGEON

Let's Go Fishing!



HOTEL NORFOLK'S OWN 27' ALUMINIUM
CRUISER KIWA ("QUEEN OF THE SEA")
WILL TAKE YOU OFFSHORE TO HELP CATCH
THE ISLAND'S FISH. LEAVE ABOUT 7.30,
RETURN ABOUT 2.30 OR 3.00PM. \$10 IN-
CLUDES LUNCH, TEA OR COFFEE AND
THE FISH OF YOUR CHOICE.
KIWA HAS BUNKS, TOILET AND A
SIX-CYLINDER VOLVO DIESEL ENGINE.

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FROM

**THE
NORFOLK
ISLAND
NEWS**

TO

AIRMAIL
POSTAGE:
To Aust 40¢
To NZ \$1.20